

Ozal strengthens hand

ANKARA (R) — Prime Minister Turgut Ozal strengthened his hand in Turkey's half-empty parliament on Tuesday but again missed election as president. With opposition parties boycotting the vote Ozal won 256 votes — up from 247 in the first round Friday but short of the two-thirds majority needed to make him head of state. Ozal, a 62-year-old conservative in power since 1983, is expected to be elected when the number of votes required drops to 226 in third-round voting Oct. 31. Deputies from Ozal's centre-right Motherland Party smiled and laughed with relief after when the result of Tuesday's secret ballot was announced. "All the pressure has made my Motherland Party stronger," Ozal told Reuters as he left the parliament chamber. Ozal is opposed only by Motherland Deputy Fethi Celikbas, 77, who won 17 votes after 18 in the first secret ballot. "The Motherland lost a lot of votes in the March municipal elections... a 21.5 per cent level of support is not enough for Ozal to be president," Celikbas told Reuters.

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Fracas in Israeli parliament

TEL AVIV (R) — A fierce row erupted in Israel's parliament Tuesday, forcing the house speaker to call a recess and an inquiry into a comment by an ultra-rightist legislator that a single Jew was worth a thousand Arabs. The fracas started as Conservative Party leader Meir Wilner, making the second of shameless-outrage motions, decried the loss of life during the Palestinian uprising in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. Left-wing Arab legislator Mohammad Miori and the ultra-rightist Ezer Weizman began arguing about how many Arabs and Jews had died in the 22-month-old revolt. A Reuters survey shows that at least 694 Arabs and 42 Jews have died. When Miori said there was no difference between the life of a Jew and that of an Arab, Weizman — heard clearly from the press gallery — said: "For every Jew, a thousand Arabs." Arab legislator Abdul Wahab Darawneh then screamed at the chair: "How can such things be said in the Knesset (parliament)?" Two other Arab legislators joined in demanding action against Weizman, leader of the Mofdet (homeland) party that advocates the "transfer" of Arabs under Israeli control to other countries.

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Egypt briefs Jordan on peace efforts

By a Jordan Times Staff Writer with agency dispatches

AMMAN — The Jordanian leadership was Tuesday briefed on the situation in efforts to bring Palestinians and Israelis to talks and the outcome of recent Egyptian-Palestinian contacts on the issue.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that His Majesty King Hussein received a message from Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak on "the latest developments in the Palestinian scene."

The news agency did not give details but it was believed that the message, which was delivered by Mubarak's Political Advisor Osama Al Baz, dealt with the results of Egyptian efforts to bring about a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as a prelude to expanded peace talks.

According to Arab diplomats quoted by Reuters, Baz was expected to brief the King on the outcome of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's talks with Mubarak in Cairo this week.

"Many developments regarding peace are taking place now and Jordan has to know everything on the current state of affairs," said a diplomat quoted by Reuters. "This is part of regular consultations and exchanges of views between the two countries."

Petra said the King's meeting with Baz, who visited here earlier Tuesday, was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Staker, Royal Court Chief Mudar Badran, the King's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odah, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi and the Egyptian ambassador to Jordan.

The Egyptian message to the King came amid reports that Cairo had relayed to the United States Palestinian questions about an American plan to bring about a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

Frank Wisner, the American ambassador to Egypt, took the queries from Egyptian Foreign Minister Elam Meguid, and then told reporters that the

U.S. intended to pursue its efforts for such a dialogue.

"No door has been closed, and the last word has not been spoken," Wisner said.

Wisner and Abdul Meguid met for 30 minutes over proposals by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker.

Abdul Meguid told reporters he telephoned Baker Monday night. "I delivered the Palestinian questions to Ambassador Wisner today," the foreign minister said. "The Palestinian position is very moderate."

The minister gave no details of his conversation with Baker. But the timing of the call indicated it dealt with the Palestine Liberation Organisation's (PLO) desire for clarification of the Baker plan.

Publicly, the PLO has rejected the plan outright.

But Arafat, the PLO chairman, met with Mubarak twice since Sunday, and Egypt says its understanding of the PLO position is that the plan remains on the table but needs clarification.

Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) quoted a Palestinian source as saying that Arafat received a letter from Baker outlining his proposals. He said the PLO was studying the letter.

The source also said that Arafat had sent a message to U.S. President George Bush complaining of Israel's harsh measures against Palestinians protesting the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza.

Wisner did not elaborate on the PLO questions Abdul Meguid relayed to him.

On Monday, Mubarak aide Mohammad Abdul Moneim said Egypt would act as an intermediary between the PLO and the United States and Israel, relaying to them the Palestinian point of view.

Baker's five-point plan calls for an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue to be followed by elections in the occupied territories. Israel says the balloting would be to choose Palestinians for further talks on interim autonomy in the occupied territories.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's Political Advisor Osama Al Baz (Petra photo)

Israel accepts Baker proposal with conditions

WASHINGTON (Agencies) —

The Israeli government has notified Secretary of State James Baker that it will accept a U.S. plan for Palestinian negotiations, on two conditions, the Israeli embassy said Tuesday.

One is that Baker guarantee that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) will not participate in the talks. The other is that any Israeli meeting with Palestinians before elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip be limited to discussing the election itself, said embassy spokeswoman Ruth Yaron.

The letter, sent by Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens Monday night, appeared aimed at defusing tensions with Washington, where Israel had been portrayed as hindering progress on the U.S. plan.

Arens informed Baker in the letter that Israel "accepted basically" his five-point proposal for a meeting with Palestinians, Yaron said.

Baker's proposal included an assurance that Israel would be "satisfied" with the composition

of the delegation and it assigned Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak a middle-man role of consulting with the PLO.

"He is not optimistic or pessimistic," a U.S. official said after Baker read the letter. "He is realistic."

Israel had insisted all along that it would accept the Baker proposal only if the PLO was excluded and with the understanding that discussions with a Palestinian delegation would preclude substantive negotiations. Yaron said that in the letter, Arens requested two "tactical changes." One would assure Israel that the PLO would not participate in the meeting and the other would limit the agenda to the election itself.

Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, Arens and other members of the right-wing Likud bloc have been concerned from the outset that the meeting would turn into a negotiating session. Shamir's election plan provides for negotiations after the Palestinians on the West Bank and in Gaza choose their representatives.

The PLO, meanwhile, has rejected both the Shamir and Baker proposals. "I was not clear whether an Israeli-Palestinian meeting could be held without at least PLO acquiescence."

Baker was expected to reply to Arens, but the Israeli foreign minister was on a trip to Brussels, which could delay temporarily further contact between the two officials.

Last week, as Baker's drive to set up negotiations approached a critical point, Shamir appealed for U.S. help in drawing Palestinians into the election plan.

Shamir, in a letter to Baker delivered last Wednesday, urged the administration to help overcome "intimidation" keeping Palestinians on the West Bank and Gaza from participating in the prime minister's proposal for elections, diplomatic sources said.

Shamir also asked Baker to try to enlist Arab governments to join with Egypt in trying to implement the elections proposal, said the sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mediators push Lebanon plan against defiant Aoun

JEDDAH (Agencies) — Arab mediators Tuesday invited the Lebanese parliament to a formal session in Beirut Nov. 7 to ratify a reconciliation charter worked out in 23 days of debate by Muslim and Christian lawmakers in the neighbouring city of Taif.

The same session will elect a president for the country in place of Amin Gemayel.

The invitation was in a 5-page document that the mediators — Saudi Arabia, Morocco and Algeria — issued as a guarantee for the draft charter which the 63 deputies approved on Oct. 23. The document was read at the formal ceremonial meeting concluding the peace parity which was held by King Fahd at his Salam Palace in the Red Sea port city of Jeddah in honour of the parliamentarians before their departure.

The Saudi monarch congratulated the deputies for their "great achievement." Through them he congratulated the Lebanese people for the "fruitful outcome" in envisaged political reforms and measures to ensure the sovereignty of Lebanon and its security and stability.

But in Beirut, supporters of Christian leader and army chief Michel Aoun burned tyres during demonstrations protesting the peace plan.

Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal read out a five-page document in Jeddah that contained the call for a parliament meeting and pledged support for the peace agreement.

It said the Arab League would guarantee the implementation of the plan on the Syrian withdrawal, a main demand by Christian

Jordan welcomes Taif accord

AMMAN (J.T.) — Information Minister Nassef Al Majali Tuesday welcomed a peace agreement reached by Lebanese parliamentarians meeting in Taif, Saudi Arabia. "We welcome it and hope it will be the beginning of a true reconciliation," he told Reuters. "We hope that everyone will seek to help Lebanon achieve its sovereignty and unity."

In a statement to Radio Jordan Majali said that the agreement, worked out by the tripartite Arab committee, was "the right beginning for remedying the Lebanese crisis." He praised the tireless efforts made by the committee and the Saudi government to reach the agreement.

The plan had stipulated Syria would withdraw its troops to the eastern Bekaa Valley two years after the reforms were approved and a president elected. Then the Lebanese and Syrian governments would negotiate the future and size of the Syrian forces.

The statement said the Arab mediators had reached "a total agreement and understanding" with Syria on the withdrawal as provided in the plan.

In Beirut, tens of thousands of Lebanese marched to the palace of Aoun Tuesday, shouting sup-

port for his rejection of the peace plan.

"Traitors, traitors, merchants... they sold Lebanon... those deputies do not represent us, they represent Syria," shouted some, attacking the Lebanese deputies for approving the pact.

"Don't return to Lebanon... if you return, we will kill you with our bare hands," said others. "The blood of our martyrs will not go down the drain."

It was one of the largest demonstrations in Lebanon's Christian enclave since civil war erupted in 1975.

Security sources and witnesses estimated the crowd at 70,000 people, most waving olive branches, Lebanese flags or pictures of Aoun.

Banks, shops, offices and schools closed in east Beirut and streets were deserted except for the protesters. Black smoke rose over the area from tyres set ablaze by Christian militants.

"No to Syria in Lebanon. With Aoun until liberation," read one of scores of banners in Tuesday's demonstration.

"No to disgrace, no to submission. We are with the war of liberation until the finish... we will fight to the last one of us... we will continue at any cost," read another.

"This agreement will not end the war. Those (deputies) who say they are trying to save the country are the ones who destroyed it," said Elie Melki, a university student. "They sold the blood of our martyrs."

The crowd went wild as Aoun emerged from his ruined palace in the Beirut suburb of Baabda to



Michel Aoun

address them. Applause lasted 15 minutes. A brass band played the national anthem before Aoun could deliver his speech.

Addressing the demonstrators, Aoun said that the reference to the accord to the timing of a Syrian withdrawal "is very vague, from now until eternity."

"We don't want to give away our beloved land," Aoun said in his address.

Syrian official newspapers said Tuesday that Aoun would renew fighting in Lebanon to abort the plan.

The daily Tishrin said that Aoun was an obstacle to reconciliation in Lebanon.

"Aoun's statements indicate that those who would be harmed by reconciliation would not abandon their weapons. They will double their attempts to abort what has been achieved in Taif," the newspaper said.

Syrian official media Tuesday expressed further satisfaction with the accord.

NATO opens key talks

VILAMOURA, Portugal (Agencies) — Mindful of the dramatic events unfolding in the Soviet-bloc, North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) defence chiefs met Tuesday to discuss the Western alliance's nuclear needs in an era of reduced East-West tension.

U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney and other NATO ministers began their two-day strategy session at the Quinta do Lago resort on the southern coast of Portugal. Cheney told the meeting the Soviet Union still posed a major threat to Western Europe despite rapid political changes in the Communist bloc.

Western officials said Cheney reported that Moscow had modernised strategic nuclear forces and retained considerable capabilities in space and conventional weapons.

Moscow was boosting the number of long-range SS-24 and SS-25 missiles which can also be aimed at Western Europe, Cheney said.

A day earlier in Moscow, Soviet Foreign Minister Edvard Shevardnadze conceded that a disputed Soviet radar station violated the U.S.-Soviet Anti-Ballistic Missile (ABM) treaty and reiterated it would be dismantled.

"We are saving the ABM treaty and opening the way to the conclusion of a treaty on strategic weapons," Shevardnadze told the Supreme Soviet legislature in a surprisingly frank speech.

The foreign minister also said the Kremlin was willing to negotiate the dismantling of the NATO and Warsaw Pact military alliances in Europe.

Refugees, return of land focus of Mideast problem — Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan's permanent representative to the United Nations Abdullah Salah said Tuesday that the Palestinian refugee problem was an essential part of the Palestine question.

The right of the Palestinian people to repatriation constituted the crux of the Palestine question until 1967, but following Israel's occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip in that year the right to repatriation and the restoration of the occupied Arab territories have become the focus of the problem, Salah said.

Addressing the United Nations General Assembly's Special Political Committee (SPC), Salah said the living and health conditions of Palestinian refugees were not up to the minimum standard. However, he noted, the situation in Jordan and Syria was satisfactory.

The political committee Tuesday discussed the situation of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). Salah said any attempt to compare between the difficulties UNRWA faces

in the host Arab countries, including Lebanon, and the Israeli practices against UNRWA was totally unacceptable. Israel is an occupying authority and as such it is responsible for creating the Palestine problem and for the failure to find a just solution to it, he said. Israel has a hostile and passive attitude towards UNRWA while the host Arab countries shoulder great responsibilities for the Palestinian refugees and look positively at UNRWA and maintain close cooperation with it, he said.

Salah noted that if Jordan were to abandon its responsibilities for providing infrastructure services, secondary education and health and social care to the Palestine refugees, then UNRWA would need many times of its current budget to cover such services for the refugees.

The Israeli measures against UNRWA staff in the occupied Arab territories is not but a part of its passive policies against UNRWA and the Palestine refugees, he said.

Salah refuted Israeli allega-

tions that the Palestinian uprising was to blame for the deteriorating educational and health situations in the occupied territories and obstructing UNRWA services there.

Salah noted that the Israeli authorities had closed down 90 schools out of 98 schools in the West Bank for the second year running. Furthermore, it has caused the disruption of education at Gaza Strip schools because of frequent curfews, arrest and the closure of schools. Salah said that such attempts reflect the Israeli intention to deprive the Palestinians from the right to education and to spread illiteracy among them at a time when the whole world is striving to fight illiteracy worldwide.

Salah said oppressive Israeli measures against the Palestinian people show Israel's defiance of the international community and refused to recognise the right of the Palestinians to repatriation or compensation.

The services provided by UNRWA, in no way be looked at as an alternative for the political solution to the Palestine question, he said. The difficult situation of the Palestinian refugees calls for sustaining UNRWA services and for finding just and durable settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict, he added.

Israel unhappy over British envoy's Beit Sahour visit

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israel has protested against a British diplomat's visit to a West Bank town which the army had declared a closed military zone because of a tax revolt, an Israeli official said Tuesday.

The British consul general in occupied Jerusalem, Ivan Callan, told Reuters shortly after the incident two weeks ago that he drove into Beit Sahour without army interference and was not told the area was a closed military zone.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said the closure was "public knowledge" but would not elaborate. He said Israeli Ambassador to Britain Yosef Biran lodged a formal protest with the British Foreign Office last week.

Residents of the middle-class town near Bethlehem have refused to pay taxes as part of a civil disobedience campaign to resist Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

In the past month, the army has confiscated some \$1.25 million in property, imposed long military closures and barred journalists and peace activists. Posters offering a \$10,000 reward for the arrest, trial and expulsion of Palestinian activist Faisal Husseini were put up Tuesday by a new Israeli group called Justice.

The group, including Jewish settlers from the occupied territories, demanded in a new release the arrest of Palestinians leading the 22-month-old uprising and of Israeli leaders for failing to wipe out the revolt.

The posters, resembling notices issued by the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation, feature the word wanted in red over a black-and-white picture of Husseini. They call him a "terrorist leader of the PLO murderers organisation."

The group — Zedek in Hebrew — said it had begun posting the notices in Jerusalem and planned to put them up in other places. Husseini, a PLO supporter in Arab Jerusalem, was abroad and unavailable for comment.

Husseini was jailed without trial for 18 months — starting before the uprising erupted — on suspicion of anti-Israel activities. He was released in January.

Israeli troops shot dead a Palestinian protester in the West Bank Monday and a military court jailed a Gaza Strip Arab for nine years for throwing a petrol bomb and stones, military sources said.

Palestinians identified the dead youth as Mohammad Abu Labdeh, 19. They said troops

took away his body and another Palestinian wounded in the clash near Tulkarm refugee camp.

Abu Labdeh's death raised to at least 693 the number of Arabs who have died in the uprising.

A military court in Gaza sentenced Mahmoud Al Abzal, 23, to 12 years in prison with three suspended, for attacking soldiers with a firebomb and on a number of occasions with stones.

An army spokesman said he was not sure whether any soldiers were injured in the attacks.

In Jerusalem, prosecutor Dorit Benish appealed to the supreme court against a lower court's acquittal of a Jewish settler accused of manslaughter for shooting dead a Palestinian girl in the Gaza Strip after stone-throwers pelted his car.

The settler, Shimon Yifrah, was convicted last month of negligence in the November 1987 shooting and given a seven-month suspended sentence. The court ruled he did not mean to cause the death.

In her appeal to rehear the case, Benish argued that the light sentence did not justify the severity of Yifrah's action. She also questioned his justification for shooting at all.

Pretoria hints at emergency end

BLOEMFONTEIN, South Africa (Agencies) — South Africa strongly hinted Tuesday that it may soon start lifting a three-year-old state of emergency, a key condition set by black leaders for entering political negotiations.

"We would like to lift the emergency. We would like to remove the constraints imposed by the emergency," Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee told a meeting of the ruling National Party (NP) in Orange Free State province.

He was elaborating on major speeches in the past week by President F.W. de Klerk who said the emergency could be lifted provided black opposition groups renounced violence.

De Klerk has raised hopes of a break in the deadlock between the white government and the voteless black majority.

Coetsee said the emergency, imposed in June 1986 to curb a black revolt, was a situation brought about by people who wanted to bring down the rule of law.

"Therefore we are moving towards a situation in which everyone is being educated to observe

the law, to observe the rights of other people," he said.

He said a relaxation of bans on public protests introduced by de Klerk's month-old administration had shown that people were basically law-abiding.

Peaceful anti-government demonstrations by tens of thousands, the largest for years, have taken place regularly since the hands-off policy was introduced.

ANC leaders meet

Eight African National Congress (ANC) leaders, including seven freed from prison Oct. 15, held a strategy meeting Monday, unhindered by police even though their movement technically remains outlawed.

A statement issued after the meeting said the men would consult with exiled ANC officials and would address policy issues next Sunday at a mass rally planned at a soccer stadium near Johannesburg.

The meeting marked a reunion for the seven recently released men and a colleague, Govan Mbeki, who was freed from prison in November 1987.

Mbeki, 79, has been barred from travelling and attending political gatherings since his release, but the government Sunday lifted the restrictions for one week. He flew to Johannesburg Monday from his hometown of Port Elizabeth.

The other seven were released unconditionally, and have spoken out freely on behalf of their guerrilla movement. They have endorsed the ANC's use of violence in its campaign to end white-minority domination and have demanded concessions from the government as a precondition for negotiations.

The eight men met with other anti-apartheid leaders in private for more than three hours at a community centre in Soweto. They engaged in "an in-depth exploration of the way forward," according to the statement from a coalition of activists.

Mbeki and five of the men freed this month received life sentences in 1964, along with paramour ANC leader Nelson Mandela, after being convicted of treason for plotting a sabotage campaign. Mandela remains imprisoned, although the government is considering his release.

Lebanese are united in thirst for peace, divided over pact

BEIRUT (R) — War-sickened Lebanese are united in their thirst for peace but divided whether a pact reached in Saudi Arabia can end their 14 years of suffering.

"Syria out, Syria out," shouted scores of students, waving red-and-white Lebanese flags and pictures of army chief General Michel Aoun, the leading voice for rejection of the Arab-brokered plan.

On the other side of the "green line" which splits Beirut into predominantly Christian and Muslim halves, Ali Jaber, a Muslim resident, said: "Peace, at any cost, is a great achievement because the war is no longer a tool for political progress."

Lebanese, regardless of sects or affiliations, spent much of the morning discussing whether the pact endorsed by Christian and Muslim members of parliament Sunday in the Saudi resort of Taif would be followed by more war or a further fragile truce.

After 14 years of civil conflict and the devastating March-to-September battle of Beirut between Aoun's troops and Syrian forces, real peace seemed too much to hope for.

Many of the people interviewed by Reuters on Monday hailed the pact, largely because they felt it aimed to consolidate September's ceasefire.

"We've been longing for peace. I don't support any of the political leaders. I only care for my daily bread. I just want to provide my children with food," said Ahmad Kamel, a shoe shiner.

"The pact is worthless. It is just ink on paper. Let's see it implemented on the ground first and then we can have hopes," he said.

Hassan Jassem, a vegetable vendor, said: "We want to have a break. This war wasn't a war of liberation but a war of destruction."

"As soon as they talk about peace, Aoun gives a heated statement and fighting starts all over again. We want it to end once and for ever. We had had enough," he said.

"This agreement even on paper is better than rockets and shells," he added.

But burning piles of tyres blocked a main street in East Beirut where demonstrators rejected the plan because it fell short of ensuring departure of Syrian troops from Lebanon.

Motorists who tried to drive around the barricades were forced back by the excited mob. Some soldiers, policemen and members of the hardline Falangist Lebanese Force (LF) militia helped the crowd but most just stood and watched as black smoke engulfed the roads.

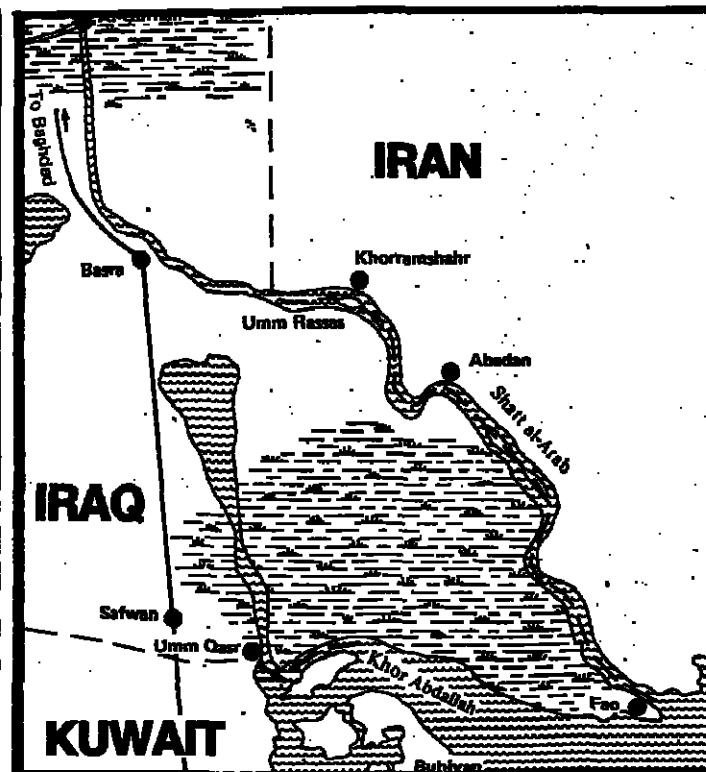
Diplomats say that young people are Aoun's main source of support. Many other Christians went to work as normal and said they were confused over the future.

"What are these kids doing," said Tony Matta, a writer for and advertising agency. "This frightens me. The whole situation is getting more and more radical rather than heading for peace."

Some Lebanese, who have put their money into hard currency, are now converting their funds back, expecting the accord to strengthen the Lebanese pound against the dollar.

"As soon as they heard of peace, people started flocking here to sell their dollars. They now want Lebanese pounds," said exchange dealer Abbas Haj Ali in the bustling Hamra Commercial District in west Beirut.

The central bank intervened to prevent a sharp movement and the Lebanese pound closed Monday at 450 to the dollar.



Life returns to Fao

BAGHDAD (R) — Half a million Iraqis are due to celebrate the rebirth of a devastated southern town whose recapture turned the tide of the Gulf war against Iran.

When a U.N.-sponsored ceasefire halted Gulf war fighting in August 1988, Fao was a bloodied, blackened ruin around which more than 170,000 soldiers were said to have been killed in some of the biggest battles of the war.

But after an ambitious rebuilding scheme the town is once again bustling with life and on Wednesday five Arab heads of state, including His Majesty King Hussein and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt, will join Iraqis at Baghdad's Grand Festival Square to celebrate Fao's resurrection.

Coloured stones from North Yemen adorn the gate to Fao while trees sent by Palestinians from occupied Jerusalem take pride of place in its gardens.

According to the official media three million people took part in rebuilding the town, laid waste by millions of shells during eight years of war with Iran.

A 114-day reconstruction campaign restored drinking water, electricity, telephone, and sewage networks and included the dredging of 22 rivers.

President Saddam Hussein has described Fao as "the town of sacrifices and the gate to the great victory (against Iran)."

Iraq, which has already spent \$3.2 billion on the rebuilding of Fao and the southern port of Basra, says the reconstruction shows Baghdad wants a lasting peace with Tehran.

Hussein urged all Iraqis to either take part in rebuilding Fao or donate money. An appeal was also launched for foreign funds.

Kuwait donated \$10 million while Jordan built a primary school and houses for government employees, their gardens and facades featuring trees and stones donated by Palestinians in occupied Jerusalem.

Yemeni masons built the Fao Gate with special coloured stones shipped from their country.

Fao fell to Iran in February, 1986 after a surprise attack across the disputed Shatt al Arab Waterway dividing the two countries' borders at the head of the Gulf.

Battles raged for 42 days and

Leaders begin to arrive

BAGHDAD (R) — President Hassan Gholi of Djibouti and PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat arrived in Baghdad Tuesday for celebrations marking the rebuilding of the war-damaged southern town of Fao.

His Majesty King Hussein, the presidents of Egypt, South Yemen and Mauritania and prime ministers or ministers from all other Arab countries except Syria were expected to arrive later Tuesday.

Along with more than half a million Iraqis, they are due to attend a celebration in Baghdad Wednesday. The Iraqi News Agency (INA) said President Saddam Hussein would deliver a speech.

Iraq's recapture of Fao in April 1986 was the first of several victories which drove Iranian troops from Iraqi territory. In July 1988 Tehran accepted a ceasefire in the eight-year Gulf war.

eventually Iraqi troops managed to check the Iranian advance towards Basra.

Fao's population of 50,000 people had been evacuated early in the war.

Signs in Fao say 52,000 Iraqi soldiers and 120,000 Iranians were killed in the battles around the town which Iraq recaptured in a two-pronged offensive in April 1986.

The Fao recapture was followed by a series of other military victories which drove Iranian troops from all Iraqi territory, pushing Iran towards accepting United Nations Resolution 598 calling for a ceasefire.

Fao was an important terminal for pipelines going to the Gulf and is the main link for Iraq's main Gulf oil terminals, some 20 kilometres to the south.

Both the Al Bakr and Al Aneeq terminals and Fao's oil facilities were repaired after heavy damage caused by the war.

Israel doubts Lebanese peace, to continue occupation of South

TEL AVIV (R) — Israelis, hardened by 14 years of watching the Lebanese civil war, are sceptical the latest peace plan will restore political stability to their northern neighbour.

Newspapers in Arab countries warned that Israel would try to undermine the new agreement, but Israelis pointed out that key Lebanese themselves had rejected the accord brokered by Arab League mediators.

"There is nothing to react to at this stage," a senior Foreign Ministry official said when asked for the Israeli view.

Israel's oft-stated position is that it will withdraw from the "security zone" it occupies in Lebanese territory along the Israeli border only when Lebanon has a stable government that can guarantee its territory will not be used for attacks on the Jewish state.

"You talk here about a process that will take a lot of time — if it materialises," said Yossi Olmert, who tracks Lebanese developments at Tel Aviv University's Japanese Centre for Strategic Studies.

The agreement that emerged Sunday from three weeks of bagging by Lebanese parliamentarians in Saudi Arabia was to delay a decision on final withdrawal of Syria's 33,000 troops from Lebanon until two years after making political reforms demanded by its

Muslim majority.

But the accord was immediately denounced by Lebanon's real leaders — those backed by guns.

Lebanese army chief General Michel Aoun, campaigning since March to drive Syria from Lebanon, said it would "lead us to hell." Pro-Syrian Druze leader Walid Junblatt called it a "silly" proposal.

"Israel will withdraw from the security zone only when there is a very, very firm sense in Israel that such a situation would not cause trouble," Olmert told Reuters.

"And I can't see this happening in the near future."

That leaves Israel occupying a 10-km-wide strip of Lebanese territory — a buffer zone intended to prevent a resumption of the Palestinian attacks that used to spread havoc in northern Israeli settlements.

The zone now has its own civil administration and an Israeli-paid and equipped militia, the South Lebanon Army. A medical tax and distinctive licence plates are fresh signs of its increasing political distance from the rest of Lebanon.

Although Israeli emphasises it has no intention of annexing the area — home to some 200,000 Lebanese, mainly Christians and Shi'ite Muslims — it has clearly settled in for a long occupation.

In a more covert manner, Israeli interests extend to the rest

of the country, fueling the charges of Lebanese that foreign interference is a key factor in their civil war.

The struggle between Israel and the Syrian and Palestinian forces long ago overflowed into Lebanon and remains an Israeli preoccupation.

Syria observes unwritten understanding not to station troops too close to Israeli lines and not to interfere in the reconnaissance flights that Israeli jets routinely fly above the wild Lebanese landscape.

But Israeli officials are sceptical Syria will ever draw back to its borders set during French colonial rule after World War I.

After the latest peace proposal, Israel repeated it will withdraw from Lebanon only when there is a Lebanese government "that will project its authority and sovereignty over the whole country."

"I think whether the agreement is signed or not signed will not matter because it is irrelevant to the realities in Lebanon," said Brigadier-General Amos Gilboa, a retired deputy head of Israeli military intelligence.

The differences left unresolved by this new attempt to heal the wounds in Lebanese society — and the doubts that Syria will ever withdraw — leave Israeli planners expecting to be in South Lebanon for the indefinite future.

U.N. chief confident on Afghan settlement

UNITED NATIONS (R) — Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar expressed confidence Monday that the Afghan people would achieve a comprehensive political settlement despite their differences.

"I count on the international community to encourage them in that direction," he added in a written report to the General Assembly.

Although Soviet troops who entered the country in 1979 finally withdrew last February, fighting is continuing between the Soviet-backed government in Kabul and Western-supported Mujahideen guerrillas.

"I remain confident that, despite their differences and diversity, the Afghan people can and will achieve a comprehensive political settlement," Perez de Cuellar said.

The Afghan problem could not be solved except by political means and for this a consensus was needed both at the international and national levels, he said.

While such a consensus had not yet emerged, efforts were under way to narrow the Gulf between the positions taken by the countries neighbouring Afghanistan and other concerned countries.

Perez de Cuellar said he was gratified that, despite the continuing instability and fighting, the U.N. system continued to make steady progress in providing humanitarian and economic assistance to the needy.

Referring to a U.N. aid operation coordination by Sadrudin Aga Khan, he said \$800 million in cash and kind had been promised at a pledging conference in October 1988 and further pledges amounting to \$200 million had since been made.

Ozal heads for presidency amid storm

ANKARA (R) — Mud-slinging, intrigue and betrayals are poisoning Turkey's political atmosphere as Prime Minister Turgut Ozal pursues his bid to become president.

Ozal, a 62-year-old conservative in power since 1983, is unlikely to win a second parliamentary vote to be held Tuesday. But he looks certain to triumph on the third ballot on Oct. 31 and become the first civilian president since 1960.

Despite that, diplomatic functions are rife with gossip of new political parties, mass resignations and a threat to the legacy of Kemal Ataturk, founder of modern Turkey.

"It's a coup and he is a civilian dictator," Deniz Baykal, deputy leader of the opposition Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP), railed against Ozal in Hurriyet newspaper.

Diplomats, however, play down press speculation that he can still be stopped by a mass resignation of the leftist and right-wing parties which boycotted the first vote last Friday or

that his ruling Motherland Party will collapse.

In Istanbul, Turkey's stock market index plunged Monday, falling over 120 points or 8.1 per cent, mainly because of the political uncertainty.

Support for the Motherland Party has sunk to less than 15 per cent of the electorate.

Political analysts blame an annual inflation rate of more than 70 per cent, opposition allegations of corruption and Ozal's own autocratic style.

Opposition rivalries, especially between left-wingers Bulent Ecevit, a former prime minister, and SHP leader Erdal Inonu, have so far protected Ozal from facing a united front.

But the level of political intrigue reminds some commentators of parliamentary horse-trading during the 1970s which encouraged instability and led to military rule from 1980 to 1983.

Four Motherland deputies have resigned from the party and 38 did not support Ozal in the first ballot when he received 247

votes, falling short of the two-thirds majority of 300 votes needed to win.

A two-thirds majority was again needed Tuesday and was not forthcoming, but Ozal has said he calculates that he will win on Oct. 31 when just a simple majority is needed.

Former Istanbul Mayor Bedrettin Dalan, once one of Ozal's closest collaborators, has turned on the prime minister, declaring the constitutional neutrality of the presidency must be defended.

"A numerical (parliamentary) majority is not enough to elect a president to represent the whole people... It throws democracy into danger," Dalan told reporters.

Ozal told Yunusyapin newspaper he had not yet picked a successor as prime minister but expected his friends to rally round the person he chose.

"I have already said I will be impartial, but that I perceive impartiality in a different way," Ozal said. "I do not intend to sit back and watch."

Chad rebels claim victory in big battle

KHARTOUM (AP) — Rebels from neighbouring Chad have claimed that loyalist Chadian troops attacked their base in Sudan but were repelled with a loss of 1,200 dead and 75 captured, including an Israeli military adviser.

There was no word from the Sudanese government on the accuracy of the Chadian dissent's account, or even whether the alleged battle occurred.

A rebel communique said 26 dissidents were killed and 30

wounded in a 10-hour battle last week Monday at Bamassi, 70 kilometres inside Sudan in western Darfur region.

In alleged that the troops loyal to Chadian President Hissene Habre crossed into Sudan in pursuit of former Chadian security adviser Col. Idriss Debi and his followers.

Debi and two other senior Chadian officials fled to Sudan when their forces in April when they failed to oust Habre in a coup attempt.

Their communique claimed that among nearly 1,050 Chadian soldiers killed were 191 officers, including Maj. Youssef Galmey, a military police commander, and an artillery commander, Maj. Bertil Hassaballa.

Prisoners include Maj. Alla-fouza Merdegne, commander of military operations in northern Chad, and an Israeli army officer identified only as Col. David, the communique said. It alleged the Israeli was a military adviser to the Chadian government.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

Egypt pledges support for Tutu

CAIRO (R) — Egypt pledged Tuesday to support efforts by Archbishop Desmond Tutu to end apartheid in South Africa and win political rights for the black majority. "The Egyptian government will support him (Tutu) in his struggle to end apartheid in South Africa," Boutros Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, said. Ghali was speaking to reporters after a meeting between the black Anglican archbishop and President Hosni Mubarak, current chairman of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU). Tutu, on an official visit to Egypt in his capacity as president of the All Africa Council of Churches, said he discussed with Mubarak attempts to end civil wars in Sudan and Ethiopia and a recent reconciliation between Egypt and Libya. He said he explained the situation in South Africa and the failure of its new president, F.W. De Klerk, to give a timetable to dismantle apartheid. Tutu was expected to leave Cairo Wednesday for Sudan and then Ethiopia for talks with officials and church leaders.

Bush invites Ibn Ali to U.S.

WASHINGTON (R) — President George Bush will have a private meeting at the White House with Tunisian President Zine Al Abidine Ibn Ali on Nov. 14, the White House has announced. Bush asked the Tunisian leader to meet with him, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said. He will be visiting the United States to address the 44th United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Libyans arrive to mourn victims

ROME (R) — About 250 Libyans arrived in Rome Tuesday to stage a day of mourning for victims of Italian colonialism — the day after Libyan Revolutionary Committees threatened revenge of Italy did not pay compensation. A spokesman at the Libyan embassy in Rome said they arrived by air and would visit islands off southern Italy where Libyans were deported during Italian colonial rule from 1911-1943. Libyan community members in Rome say there are reports that 2,000 more Libyans will arrive in Naples by ship Wednesday. But the spokesman said there was no confirmation of this. Powerful revolutionary committees in Libya Monday threatened revenge attacks against Italians and Italian property if Rome did not pay compensation for colonial rule. Tripoli says Italy kidnapped 5,000 Libyans in the colonial period and shipped them to the islands as forced labour. But Italy sees the issue as closed and Tuesday Foreign Ministry officials refused to comment on the threats by the revolutionary committees.

SLA militiamen kill 2 commandos

KIRYAT SEHMONA (R) — Israeli-backed militiamen killed two guerrillas in a pre-dawn clash Tuesday in Israel's self-declared security zone in southern Lebanon, military sources said. They said a post of the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia was shelled near Kfar Hane, about 20 kilometres from the Israeli border. The SLA returned fire and two bodies were found in the area later with a bomb nearby. The guerrillas' identities were not immediately known. Palestinian and Hizbollah Shi'ite gunmen have frequently tried to penetrate the buffer zone set up by Israel in 1985 to prevent guerrilla attacks against its northern border. The mainly Christian 2,500-strong SLA is trained, equipped and financed by Israel. It has patrolled the buffer zone since Israel withdrew the bulk of its forces from Lebanon in 1985.

3 Soviet ministers to visit Tehran

NICOSIA (AP) — Three Soviet government ministers are expected to visit Tehran in December for economic cooperation talks, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) reported Tuesday. It quoted the Soviet minister of railroads, Nikolai Konarev, as saying he would come to Iran along with the minister of foreign economic relations and the minister of heavy-machine building. The agency, whose dispatch was monitored in Nicosia, said Konarev announced the upcoming visits during a meeting in Moscow with the Iranian ambassador, Nasser Heyrani Nobard. Konarev is also co-chairman of a Soviet-Iranian Economic Commission. Konarev was quoted as saying "the Soviet Union is ready to do all it can to carry out the agreements reached between the two countries last June." He was referring to a long-term \$6 billion pact signed in Moscow during a visit to the Soviet capital by President Hashemi Rafsanjani, who is seeking help for reconstruction of Iran's war-battered economy.

Israel, Belgium discuss Mideast

BRUSSELS (R) — Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Arens discussed the Middle East peace process with his Belgian counterpart Mark Eyskens, a Belgian Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Arens was confident about the outcome of procedural discussions between Israel, Egypt and the United States on a U.S. proposal for Israeli-Palestinian peace talks in Cairo, the spokesman added. Arens is in Belgium on a two-day visit to discuss the effects of European economic integration on Israel with senior European Community officials and Israeli ambassadors to EC member states. Israel is worried that the EC, its biggest trading partner, will become more protectionist with the creation of a single internal market by 1992. It wants to obtain the same favourable trade conditions as the European Free Trade Area (EFTA).

Turkey seizes 119 kilos of heroin

BASKALE, Turkey (AP) — Police seized 119 kilograms of heroin in this eastern township near the Iranian border, the semi-official Anatolia News Agency has reported. The dispatch said policemen, acting on a tip, searched a house in Govik Hamlet and arrested five suspected drug smugglers during an operation Sunday. Police also seized three Soviet-made automatic guns at the house, Anatolia added. Baskale is a transit point for Italian drugs smuggled into Turkey through unguarded borders shared with Iran in the remote eastern region. Much of smuggled drug is later shipped to Western Europe, according to narcotics agents.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME ONE
15:30 Koran
15:40 Programme review
15:45 Children's programmes
17:00 Alph
17:30 Educational programme
18:00 News summary in Arabic
18:05 Cairo News Message
18:25 Local programme
19:20 Programme review
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Local programme
21:00 Wrestling
22:25 Varieties programme

PROGRAMME TWO
17:45-18:00 Monde Magique de Chantal
18:00 Documentary
18:30 L'Appart
19:00 News in French
19:15 Douce France
19:30 News in Hebrew
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Empty Nest
21:10 All the Rivers Run
22:30 News in English
22:50 Tausman

PRAYER TIMES

06:24 Fajr
07:45 (Sun) Dhuha
11:20 Dhur
14:28 'Asr

16:58 Maghrib
18:15 'Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Tevrasanta Church Tel. 623366
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772661
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assunta International Church Tel. 685326
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.
It will be fair with temperatures around the annual average and winds will be southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

Min./max. temp.

Amman 13/27
Aqaba 18/32
Deraia 12/28
Jordan Valley 19/32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 26, Aqaba 28. Humidity readings: Amman 28 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE
Dr. Adnan Zaghlool 898140
Dr. Muhammad Al Awa 741391
Dr. Walid Sabawneh 779971
Dr. Abdul Hamid Al Saad 791405
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Aqaba pharmacy 670255
Nairouda pharmacy 636762
Al Salam pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsi pharmacy 676660

ERRATA
Dr. Mazen Abu Bakr (—)
Al Shamsa pharmacy (985238)

ZARQA:

Dr. Maysoon Hanna (—)
Khalaf pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 630341
Rescue Police 92, 62111, 637777
Fire Brigade 891228
Blood Bank 775121
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police Department 290390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 625800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Complaints 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 623101
Jordan Television 773111
Jordan Electricity Authority 680100
Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information

Queen Alia Int'l Airport 06-53200
Queen Alia Int'l Airport 06-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 81383332
Khalaf Maternity, J. Amn. 6442816
Al-Khalaf Maternity, J. Amn. 6424412
Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
Mafha, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsi 6647174
Shamsi Hospital 660131
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 7511126
Queen Alia Hospital 6611115
Al-Muhsen Hospital 6672279
The Islamic, Amman 66612737
Al-Ahli, Amman 6641646
Tadris, Al-Mahajreh 7710125
Al-Bashir, J. Amman 7511126
Queen, Amman 8161115
Amman Alia Hospital 60224030
Amal Hospital 674155
ZARQA:
Zarqa Govt. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)91071
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)98732
IRBID:
Princess Beama Hospital (02)275555
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275
The Al Nefes Hospital (02)247100
AQABA:
Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport. Tel. (06)33200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

09:10 Jeddah (RJ)
09:45 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:00 Doha, Kuwait (RJ)
10:15 London, Luton (RJ)
10:30 Cairo, Amman (RJ)
10:45 Riyadh (RJ)
11:00 Brussels, Paris (RJ)
11:15 London, Frankfurt (RJ)
11:30 Madrid, Rome (RJ)
11:45 Chicago, New York, Vienna (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

04:30 Dubai (AZ)
12:00 Benghazi

ELECTIONS '89

By Nermeen Murad

ALL WOMEN should resign their jobs and go back to their homes and look after the children or engage in other household chores... this would solve the unemployment problem in Jordan since the vacant jobs left behind by women could be filled by the jobless men in the Kingdom... Thus go the advice and suggestion of a candidate seeking a Parliament seat from the Second District of Amman.

Asserting that he knows the "mechanism" to end the unemployment problem in the country, Dr. Ali Hawamdeh, an Islamic fundamentalist candidate, Saturday told a crowd of about 600 men and 40 women gathered in Jabal Joffeh: "I announce here today that women should stay at home waiting for their husbands or their future bridegrooms, supported financially by their fathers, and unemployed men should take their jobs."

According to Hawamdeh, "it is unacceptable that men remain at home unemployed while women go out and work."

He concluded his statements by stressing that "this is the perfect way to solve the problem of unemployment."

A young man who obviously did not cater to Hawamdeh's line of thinking, said: "I can imagine women staying at home and waiting; they turn 25 and then 30 and then 40 and they are still abiding by this advice waiting for their bridegrooms at home."

At a public debate held last week at the Professional Associations Complex attended by an equal number of men and women, Hawamdeh condemned the possibility of women representatives in the Lower House of Parliament. The Professional Associations Complex is located in Shamsani, a renowned area for coffee shops, restaurants, offices and shops where fashionably dressed men and women work and spend their free time.

Hawamdeh introduced his grand solution to unemployment in Jabal Joffeh by first stressing that "women are half of society, the sisters of men."

Although "our sisters are the mothers of the future and are guaranteed the right to education and dealings in commercial deals as stipulated in the dictates of Islam. We will fight public interaction between men and women," he said.

The other candidate addressing the Jabal Joffeh gathering was Abdul Moneim Abu Zant. He focused his 20-minute address on deep religious issues, and lamented that while Israelis were deeply committed to honouring their religious traditions, Muslims were not. He cited as an example the visit to Cairo last year by Prime Minister Messemeh Begin in 1979 when special "kosher" food was flown to the Egyptian capital to cater to the prime minister. Did any Muslim leader ever do such a thing? Asked Abu Zant.

At another gathering, at Al Nahr Society, three candidates vying for Third District seats presented their distinctive programmes: Laith Shabbat (Muslim seat), Sami Qamouh (Christian seat) and Janet Mufti (Circassian seat).

Asked about Jordan's debt problem and a slogan by another candidate to abstain from playing and cancel the Kingdom's agreement with International Monetary Fund (IMF), all three disagreed. Shabbat instead suggested Jordan should join the debtors' club and seek debt relief, including debt write-off. He cited Mexico as an example.

Qamouh, who was a budget director, concurred and called for tighter controls on monetary policies, including strict parliament control.

Both Shabbat and Qamouh blamed previous governments for the crisis. Mufti, however, would not blame anyone and called on all the people to share the burden.

Asked what their study would be in Parliament if a motion was moved to adopt Islamic Sharia law, Shabbat, who described himself as an Islamist, said that was a premature question and that before considering enforcing Sharia, people should opt to practice the basic ethical tenets of Islam.

Qamouh, a Christian cited a number of verses from the Koran and the Prophet's sayings but failed to make himself clear on the issue.

On the question of Palestine, Shabbat said that the responsibility for Palestine should not be left solely for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). It is the responsibility of all Arabs and Muslims entrusted on them by God himself," he said.

Masa'adeh to head team to Cairo talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet Tuesday named Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masa'adeh as head of the Jordanian delegation to meetings of the Council of Arab Interior Ministers which will be held in Cairo from Dec. 1 to 3. The delegation groups Public Security Director Major-General Fadel Ali and senior Interior Ministry and PSD officials.

The cabinet also approved a recommendation made by the Interior Minister to stop the application of a regulation concern-

ing the issuance of new vehicle plates, in view of the country's financial situation and the lack of factories capable of manufacturing the new vehicle plates. The Cabinet recommended, instead, the application of a new regulation, based along the lines of an earlier regulation with slight modifications. The new regulation comes into force as of the day of its promulgation in the gazette.

The cabinet also took another decision appointing Fahad Bakhat as mayor of Khaldieh.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

53 TONNES OF FOOD DESTROYED: Greater Amman Community Health inspectors Tuesday destroyed 53 tonnes of foodstuffs because they were unsuitable for human consumption. The inspection teams have also closed down nine bakeries for failing to meet health requirements, and seized 13 tonnes of dates found unfit for human consumption. (Petra)

SCOUTS CENTRE IN CAIRO: A four-man Jordanian delegation, representing Ministry of Youth, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's office and the Scouts and Girl Guides Federation, Tuesday attended the inauguration of the Arab International Scouting Centre in Cairo. The delegation presented two token gifts from Prince Hassan and Her Royal Highness Princess Basma to the centre. Attending the inauguration were representatives of 49 other countries. (Petra)

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ An art exhibition by Foad Mimi and 'Ammar Khammash at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Discovered pictures in East Jerusalem" by Austrian artist Eva Patz at the Goethe Institute.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qaddoumi displaying oil and watercolour paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Jordanian plastic artist Basma Butouli at Alla Art Gallery.
- ★ An exhibition of modern American books which includes books on agriculture, engineering, medicine and other topics, at the University of Jordan.
- ★ Jordanian amateur artists exhibition at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Scholars and Revolution" at the French Cultural Centre.



ETERNAL WAIT... Students and commuters wait impatiently for public transport on the University of Jordan road in Amman. Shortcomings in public transport is one of the major issues that preoccupy a citizen's mind daily except Friday (Photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

Efficient arbitration vital for cooperation — Crown Prince

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday underlined the importance of arbitration as an effective means for settling commercial disputes. He said the efficient and quick settlement of such disputes would contribute positively to reviving and enhancing commercial exchange and relations between countries.

Addressing a meeting on Euro-Arab arbitration which started here Monday, Prince Hassan praised the efforts made by the

Euro-Arab Chambers of Commerce to set up an international forum for commercial arbitration between Arab and European countries. Prince Hassan warned against commercial crimes, particularly those resulting from adoption by officials of illegal decisions to achieve personal interests. "Such crimes can be clearly demonstrated in tenders and supply and service contracts," he said. However, the Crown Prince noted, such illegal decisions have a dangerous effect on economic relations and trade.

The Crown Prince called on arbitrators and judges in charge of settling commercial disputes to examine such contracts carefully and to trace any and all such violations. Findings of such inquiries constitute guidelines for cooperation between Europe and the Arab World and among Arab countries themselves, Prince Hassan said. He called on industrialised countries to look at the Arab World as a great economic alliance, which has great potential of production rather than only as a consumer market.

Latvian leader praises ties with Jordan

Soviets ready to arrange Palestinian-Israeli talks

AMMAN (Petra) — The Soviet Union is ready to arrange and sponsor Palestinian-Israeli negotiations, according to the head of a visiting delegation from the Soviet Republic of Latvia.

"The Soviet Union can provide the facilities on its territory for such a parley and start detailed preparations and provide the necessary mechanisms for making the meeting a success," Cepanis Alfreds told reporters at a press conference Tuesday.

"I hope both sides will give their consent," he said.

The Latvian leader said the Soviet Union's stand was "firm and unchanging, demanding an international conference on the Middle East," and this position "is totally in agreement with that of the Jordanian government," Alfreds added.

Alfreds expressed hope that the new agreement worked out in

Saudi Arabia would finally bring about peace to Lebanon and end the fratricidal war there.

Talhoumi, president of Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society, told the press conference that the Soviet Union and Jordan hold identical views with regard to the Palestine issue.

Moscow has always supported His Majesty King Hussein's call for an international peace conference, "the most ideal forum that would bring about a final solution and just, stable and lasting peace to the Arab-Israeli conflict," Talhoumi said.

Talhoumi, a former prime minister, lauded Jordanian-Soviet ties of friendship and cooperation in economic, political and cultural fields.

Visits by King Hussein and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to the Soviet Union "have no doubt contributed to a

large extent towards bolstering bilateral ties and the two sides' stand vis-a-vis various regional and international issues," Talhoumi said.

He said the Jordanian-Soviet Friendship Society "is contributing towards this prosperous relationship, boosting cooperation at all possible levels." Through various cultural activities, the society has been instrumental in promoting understanding and ties of friendship between the Soviet and Jordanian peoples, he said.

Alfreds said that the Latvian delegation's visit to Jordan offered a good chance for further strengthening ties and presented an opportunity for the two sides to discuss ways of boosting cooperation in cultural, economic and political fields, as well as the means to curtail environment pollution and stem the proliferation of nuclear arms.



Latvian Deputy Prime Minister Cepanis Alfreds briefs reporters at a press conference Tuesday on his visit to Jordan (Petra photo)

Pan-Arab strategy adopted in transport

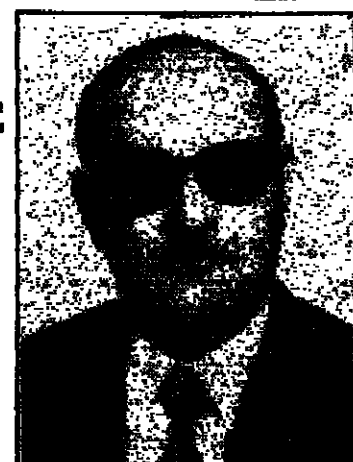
AMMAN (J.T.) — The green light given for the implementation of a pan-Arab transport strategy was the most important decision taken by Arab ministers of transport at a meeting held in Baghdad over the past few days, according to Minister of Transport Hikmat Al Khammash.

The minister, who returned to Amman from the Baghdad meeting Monday, told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ministers endorsed an agreement for the establishment of a pan-Arab "self-sustainable" corporation to classify Arab vessels. They

also agreed on a set of regulations designed to combat piracy, maritime fraud and air hijacking.

The meetings, which were attended by ministers from 21 Arab countries, agreed to organise a pan-Arab industrial exhibition in 1990 in the Iraqi capital. The exhibition, which will display equipment used in transport operations, will be followed by a similar one in Tunis in 1991, Khammash added.

The Council of Arab Ministers of Transport which organised the meeting in Baghdad has accepted an invitation by the Egyptian



Hikmat Al Khammash

government to hold the next meeting in October 1991 in Cairo, according to Khammash.

Queen today opens exhibition in Tokyo

TOKYO (Agencies) — Her Majesty Queen Noor arrived Tuesday in Tokyo and was received by Empress Mashiko for the opening of the "King's Road" exhibition — "9000 years of Art and Culture in Jordan."

The exhibition, organised with the cooperation of the Japanese government and the Jordanian Ministry of Tourism, aims to introduce Jordan's historic role as a centre of civilisation from the archaeological, cultural, touristic and spiritual aspects.

The exhibition consists of three main sections; one includes rare samples of antiquities representing the different eras since the start of civilisation in Jordan through the Arab Islamic period; the second section includes

mosaic pieces from Mount Nebo excavations, and the third section includes a collection of folkloric national costumes.

The Queen will open the exhibition Wednesday at the Takashimaya Art Gallery in Tokyo, and attending will be Prince Takahito Mikasa and Princess Yuriko Mikasa as well as a number of political and diplomatic senior officials and art lovers.

A preparatory committee arrived here last week to prepare for the exhibition which will last for three weeks.

On the sideline of the exhibition a symposium on tourism in Jordan will be held in Tokyo, and 120,000 tourist promotion brochures will be distributed in Japanese language.



H.M. Queen Noor

Queen Noor had opened the exhibition "King's Way 9000 years of Culture and Art in Jordan" in 1986 in Paris, in Cologne, West Germany in 1987, and in Shalldour, Austria, in 1988.

Amman celebrations mark U.N. anniversary

Jordan remains committed to supporting Palestinians

AMMAN (J.T.) — Despite the severance of legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank, Jordan remains committed to supporting the people of the occupied Arab territories socially and economically, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan said Tuesday.

"The Arab people of occupied Palestine receive little assistance despite the hardships they are going through and the intolerable conditions imposed on them by the Israeli occupation," he said. "Israel, on the other hand, continues to receive full support and all forms of political and economic aid from a number of sources."

The Crown Prince said in an address marking the 44th anniversary of the United Nations. The Crown Prince, who was speaking at a celebration held at the United Nations main office in Amman referred to Jordan's accomplishments over the past two decades "in the face of all odds and despite the fact that its population had almost doubled over the past 20 years."

"Despite the Kingdom's meagre resources and limited means of income, it succeeded in creating some 200,000 jobs and is still going ahead with plans for further development," the Prince added. He called on the United



HRH Crown Prince Hassan

Nations and its various organisations to provide assistance to the people of the occupied Arab territories.

The Crown Prince paid tribute to the U.N. and its affiliated agencies working in health, economic, labour and social fields, and for the U.N. role in bolstering the cause of peace and security.

Referring to the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), Prince Hassan said that the time had come for the world to deal with the Arab World not individually but rather in the form of a regional bloc. The ACC, the Gulf Cooperation Council and Arab Maghreb Union have given the

Arab World the potential to deal with the world at large in one voice, Prince Hassan added.

Referring to Israel's continued drive to attract Jewish immigrants and settle them in occupied Arab lands, the Prince said that such moves "are bound to have grave consequences on the whole region." He urged the United Nations to help take measures that can deal with the situation.

Prince Hassan referred to an annual United Nations report and said it provided ample information on social, cultural and political issues. He urged researchers to read it fully and benefit from the available data and statistics.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Resident Representative Ali Attiga outlined the achievements of the U.N. in various fields and their benefits. Attiga read out a message by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on the eve of the U.N. anniversary which said in part that "there were growing signs that international relations might be entering a new and more positive era" (see page 8).

Attending the ceremony with Prince Hassan were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zeid, heads of diplomatic missions and regional directors of U.N. organisations and offices in Jordan.



Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Tuesday is briefed on UNRWA's health centre in Jerash refugee camp.

Jerash camp gets new health centre

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath Tuesday inaugurated the new premises of a health centre for a Palestinian refugee camp near Jerash operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). The centre was set up through funds provided by the Danish Refugee Council.

The centre comprises a general

clinic, a dental section, a mother and child care unit, and a laboratory. The facility has a staff of trained doctors and nurses, according to an UNRWA official.

He said the centre would provide services free of charge to the estimated 17,000 residents of the camp.

Health and Social Development Minister Zuhair Malhas,

the Danish non-resident ambassador to Jordan and other officials were present at the inauguration ceremony attended by the camp's notables and local officials.

UNRWA, which Tuesday marked its 44th anniversary, now operates 19 health centres mostly in refugee camps in the Kingdom.

AOID adopts Jordan memo

TUNIS (Petra) — The Arab Organisation for Industrial Development's (AOID) board Tuesday adopted a Jordanian memorandum on the future perspectives of the organisation's duties within the context of Arab economic blocs as one of the conference's official documents.

The memo said the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) would complement the role of the organisation, and would not replace it.

However, the memo noted, any regional or national integration process would not be a success unless it is part of a comprehensive pan-Arab perspective. The ACC will bolster cooperation with the AOID to ensure that no duplication of work occurs, the memo said.

The ACC will give the organisation a major role in the development and industrial integration processes in the coming stage, the memo added.

Renowned French pianist performs here next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — The National Music Conservatory (NMC), in cooperation with the French Cultural Centre, will present renowned French pianist Francois Kerdoncuff, in a performance Tuesday, Oct. 31, under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Aila Bint Al Hussein.

Kerdoncuff will present works by world famous musicians in the performance, the first to be held in Jordan this year.

Kerdoncuff was born in Paris in 1954 and studied at the Conservatoire National Supérieur de Musique de Paris under Valdo Perlemuter. He has given numerous concerts in Paris and other French cities. He also toured Spain, Italy, the Middle East and the Soviet Union and played with many world orchestras.

The NMC, which operates under Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF), will organise a three-day intensive training course in teaching music at the kindergarten level and first primary classes of the basic education stage. The

NMC said in a press release Tuesday that the course, which is being organised in cooperation with the Goethe Institute in Amman, is being run under the supervision of Nouri Ruheibani, German of Arab origin and expert in music education.

Ruheibani, who will serve as the main instructor in the course had organised similar courses in Europe and a number of Arab countries.

The course, according to a NHF statement, aims to provide basic training to benefit children. The course will open Saturday, Oct. 28 for about six hours a day.

CORRECTION

The Jordan Times, in a report on page 3 of its Oct. 24 issue, inadvertently reported that the Ministry of Supply had confiscated and destroyed 12,000 tonnes of foodstuffs found unfit for human consumption. The actual quantity seized and destroyed was 12 tonnes. The Jordan Times regrets the error.

Jordan Times

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Salute to the Pope

POPE John Paul II added a fresh spiritual and moral dimension to the Palestinian people's tragedy when he said Sunday: "I wish to make my own the legitimate request of the Palestinian people to live in peace in their own country." This pronouncement by His Holiness the Pope comes at a very critical juncture in the search for a permanent and just settlement in the Middle East. The various equations put forward so far to advance the stated peace process in the Middle East only reflect the dynamics of power politics in a manner devoid of ethics or morality.

While conceding that it is not fashionable in international relations to moralise on international and regional issues, still the political clout of the Pope among millions and millions of the faithful cannot be dismissed with impunity. There are hundreds of millions of Catholics all over the world whose collective judgment on the Palestinian case would slowly but surely bear fruit. In fact the Vatican has always had an honourable stand on the Middle East conflicts, a fact which is very much appreciated by the peoples of the region, especially the people of Palestine, who draw strength from the support of the Catholic church to their cause. This magnificent spiritual and moral support to the Arab side gives much food for thought including the search for reasons why other spiritual centres in the world are not as forthcoming on international and regional conflicts and including the Middle East as the Vatican has demonstrated over and over again. In a material world lacking spirituality, there is an urgent need for various religions of the world to speak out with clarity and vigour on tension issues that still afflict humanity. The relevancy of religions becomes much more accentuated and remarkable when their teachings and preachings are applied to matters that affect the lives and welfare of peoples everywhere.

The Vatican has shown the way how religion can be applied to assist in solving situations that have a bearing on the future of mankind. In other words the voices of spirituality must be heard more often than in the past on all issues that they environment, disease, hunger or whatever. As for the latest declaration by the pontiff, on the need to give the Palestinians a homeland in a country of their own, it has obviously hit the Israeli establishment like a thunderbolt from which it has yet to recover. The Israelis need lecturing and counselling these days when their leaders keep on thwarting one initiative after the other. And it's most gratifying to note that there are still centres of power in the world that dare to stand up to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and make him all hot and bothered every time he recklessly turns down any reasonable hope for peace in the Middle East. It is therefore in order to salute His Holiness Pope John Paul II for his outstanding courage to speak out when many are silent.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

ARABIC daily newspapers published Tuesday gave extensive coverage in the news reports and the columns about a consensus reached by Lebanese parliament members on a national charter that would end the civil war in Lebanon.

Al Ra'i daily described the consensus as a real victory for the Lebanese people, represented by their deputies, who exerted all efforts to keep their country united and to end the sufferings of the people of Lebanon. The paper said any leader who might try to undermine the agreement, would be facing a unanimous condemnation by the Arab people everywhere and should be, shouldering the responsibility for any adverse development in Lebanon. It is time for all leaders if Lebanon to make way for the people and their will, and their deputies and their decision to put an end to the war and bloodshed, said the paper. No Arab leader could be or claim to be more keen on safeguarding the interests of the Lebanese than the people of Lebanon themselves, the paper added. All the Arabs who sympathise with Lebanon, welcome the new development and feel that the rays of dawn are now near and the end of the tunnel is reached at last, the paper concluded.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily expresses belief that the United States is in need of a "Gorbachev" to bring about a change in Washington's policies vis a vis the world at large and the Middle East region in particular. Hamei Ayeah says that while the United States condemns China's settlement of its students problem it continues to arm the Zionist enemy with all forms of weapons to liquidate the Palestinian people in their own homeland after it had deprived them of their legitimate rights. Ever since the outbreak of the uprising in Palestine, Israeli forces have killed hundreds of people, injured many others destroyed homes and deported Palestinian citizens thanks to the United States' continued aid to Israel, the writer notes. He says that the United States, which brags about peace and human rights, provides the necessary protection to Israel and its criminal actions. The United States which faces a confused foreign policy and numerous domestic problems including 22 million impoverished people in America is in need of another Gorbachev to initiate a perestroika, which is more needed in the United States now than in the Soviet Union. If no such "Gorbachev" is to appear on the scene in America, let us hope that the Palestinian intifada will awaken the American people to the facts of life, so that they can free themselves from Zionist rule, the writer concludes.

Al Dastour daily newspaper praised the agreement, reached by the Lebanese deputies in Saudi Arabia, and said that such consensus was needed to lead to a total reconciliation in Lebanon. The paper said that the Lebanese people themselves were no doubt enthusiastic about the consensus which will maintain their unity and territorial integrity. No Arab leader can but welcome such positive development, and cannot help feeling indebted to King Hussein and the other Arab leaders who actively participated in helping the deputies to reach success, said the paper. The paper expressed hope that no new obstacles will crop up in the path of peace; and called on all the concerned Lebanese parties to contribute towards the aspired stability, security and peace in Lebanon.

The Soviet Union and Israel — links and ties

By Julia Slater

THE RENEWAL of diplomatic links between Hungary and Israel on 18 September has led to a flurry of speculation as to whether diplomatic relations are imminent between Israel and other Eastern European countries, and especially the USSR. While Soviet foreign ministry officials, from Shevardnadze down, remain guarded if not actually hostile towards the re-establishment of full ties, contacts between the two countries have become much more frequent. A Soviet consular delegation has been in Tel Aviv since June 1987, and after some delay the USSR allowed an Israeli mission to come to Moscow in July 1988. But characteristically, while Shamir described the visit as "historic", the Soviet side played it down as "technical".

Shevardnadze has had discussions with both Shamir and Peres in the framework of the U.N. General Assembly, and this year he has met his Israeli counterpart, Moshe Arens, three times already, first at the Paris conference on chemical weapons in January, in Cairo during his Middle East tour in February and most recently in New York on 28 September, where he urged Arens to engage in direct dialogue with the PLO. Shevardnadze announced after the

second meeting that the two countries had set up committees of experts who would try to "identify ways for interaction wherever possible". But so far there have been no official visits by high-ranking representatives of either foreign ministry to the other country, in spite of the fact that Israel has expressed an interest in receiving such Soviet officials.

The exchanges that there have been have been at a much lower level, and have scarcely been noticed by the Soviet media. They include visits to Israel by Soviet cultural bodies — the latest being the Bolshoi ballet — and sports teams. It has become much easier for Israeli tourists to visit the USSR: an Israeli travel firm can make the arrangements, and visas take only two weeks to obtain. Israeli rabbis have been invited to the USSR, and Soviet rabbis allowed to visit Israel. At the end of July Israeli radio reported that 800 young Soviet graduates had started arriving in Israel to study Hebrew and Zionism and to work on various kibbutzim. Israel attended the Moscow Book Fair in September. Historians from the Yad Vashem memorial in Jerusalem are now being allowed access to archives dealing with Nazi atrocities against Jews in the Ukraine.

Business ties take off

More seriously, economic and business ties have started to take off. Plans for setting up the first joint Israeli-Soviet enterprise were announced in August: called Agromir, it will carry out agricultural projects in the USSR. So far it has announced schemes to import Israeli dairy cattle and equipment, drip irrigation technology for cotton production and even a chicken run to produce kosher chickens for Jewish tourists. Israeli bankers visited Moscow in June for an economic convention, and met members of the Soviet banking establishment. The Israeli energy minister met his Soviet counterpart in Canada in mid-September, and proposed a barter deal whereby Israel would import Soviet coal and gas in exchange for setting up a solar power plant in the USSR.

Some Soviet republics have been establishing their own links with Israel. Several Armenians injured in last December's earthquake went to Israel for treatment. Usually, the Soviet evening news programme showed them arriving back in Armenia, flown in by a special El Al charter flight. But it is Georgia which has been most active, probably because there is a large population of Georgian Jews in Israel. Several Georgian ministers have visited

the country, and met with high ranking Israelis including Prime Minister Shamir. Arrangements are being made for the reception of Israeli tourist groups and Israeli entrepreneurs have been invited to construct hotels. Regular charter flights between Tel Aviv and the Georgian capital, Tbilisi, are supposed to start around November — this at a time when even Moscow is not directly connected by air with Tel Aviv. Textiles, electronics and the food industry are among other subjects mentioned and there have been rumours of plans to set up chambers of commerce.

A visit by a Georgian delegation in mid-August is supposed to have led to an invitation to Ariel Sharon to visit the republic in his capacity as trade and industry minister, but though Sharon's office was adamant that the invitation had been made, the foreign ministries in both Moscow and Tbilisi denied it. Israel reported that it had been told by a Georgian official that the republic could not invite ministers who are also political leaders. But an invitation to the Israeli minister of education, Yitzhak Navon, made at the beginning of August, still stands. A few weeks ago it seemed as if the honour of being the first Israeli minister to make an official trip to the USSR would be the agriculture minister Avraham Katz-Oz, who had been in-

cluded by his Estonian counterpart to open the Israeli pavilion at an international flower show in the capital, Tallinn. The USSR agriculture ministry then asked Katz-Oz to go on to Moscow afterwards. But at the last minute, the minister and his party were refused entry visas. According to the Voice of Israel, the reason given by an unnamed senior Soviet official was that Moscow wanted to teach the Estonians a lesson, for acting too independently in general, and it was the Israelis who paid the price.

Seeds of discord

The issue of Israeli relations with the USSR looks set to sow discord not only on the Soviet side. Shimon Peres used a trip to New York at the end of September to make his own contacts. He met Genrikh Borovik, chairman of the Soviet Peace Committee and a well known television journalist, who apparently promised to urge the Soviet government to issue an invitation to Peres to visit the USSR to discuss economic relations. Borovik has no government position, but Peres and the Israeli media are certainly taking this as a real invitation. Since Peres is minister of finance this would be in his province. But he is treading cautiously. He told Israeli radio that the "ceremonial

aspect" — the establishment of diplomatic relations — is not the most important thing, but that the relationship should be filled with "economic, cultural and Jewish content", and the rest can follow. Foreign Minister Moshe Arens was distinctly frosty about attempts reportedly being made by Peres at the same time to arrange his own meeting in New York with Shevardnadze, remarking that he hoped the finance minister would stick to the government's resolutions, and to the roles people have been assigned.

The USSR says relatively little in public about its relations with Israel: news of visits and economic links comes almost exclusively from the Israeli side. The "new thinking" in Soviet diplomacy has certainly loosened up its attitude, however, and it is genuinely looking for dialogue. The solution of regional problems is one of the key aims of the USSR's foreign policy. The Soviet foreign minister has described the lack of diplomatic relations with Israel as "not normal", but up to now still insists that there will be no normalisation until Israel moves on an international peace conference. As a superpower, the USSR has responsibilities that do not enter into Hungary's calculations. — Middle East International, London.

Grenada 6 years later: Officer says mission endangered U.S. students

By Bryna Brennan
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A British officer involved in the U.S. invasion of Grenada that began six years ago on Monday says the American troops are rightly hailed as heroes but the official U.S. rationale for the mission was flawed.

Retired Maj. Mark Adkin says the U.S. military action was not necessary to save the lives of American medical students on the Caribbean island, as claimed by the U.S. government, and in fact endangered them.

He also says U.S. soldiers succeeded despite weak advance

planning and haphazard coordination by leaders of the different military services involved.

Adkin, who took part in the invasion as Caribbean operations

staff officer for the Barbados defence force, recounts the mission in a new book titled "Urgent Fury: The Battle for Grenada."

He lauds the outcome of the invasion and says it prevented Grenada from becoming a "Communist bastion" in the region. But he dismisses U.S. claims at the time that the 700 American medical students on the island were in danger of being taken hostage.

Then-President Ronald Reagan repeatedly said the 6,000 combat troops staged a "rescue mission" beginning Oct. 23, 1983, to prevent the students from being taken hostage by a radical Marxist government.

If anything, Adkin says, the invasion increased the chances that the students would be taken hostage.

"U.S. citizens were in no danger until the operation was launched," he writes. "The assault on the island could easily have precipitated the taking of hostages by desperate men driven to de-

spare means to save their own lives."

The U.S. government decided to intervene in Grenada "on the basis of seizing a fleeting strategic-political advantage, which had the added merit that inevitable military success would raise U.S. flagging morale," he says.

The predawn attack by combined elite units of all the U.S. armed forces came days after leftists on the island executed Marxist Prime Minister Maurice Bishop and imposed a 24-hour curfew. The invasion forces ousted the leftists and flew the students home.

A former Reagan administration official, Langhorne Anthony Motley, disputes Adkin's claims about the students, saying: "He's totally incorrect."

Motley, a former assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs, said a CIA officer spoke with the students before the troops arrived and "they were concerned" about being taken hostage.

Regardless of the reason for the mission, Adkin says, the U.S. troops deserved the heroes' welcome they received from both the islanders and the American pub-

lic upon their return.

"The people who had been invaded welcomed the invaders, regarded them as liberators, even going so far as to want U.S. troops to remain far longer than they did. The island was to be a Communist bastion, an ever more menacing reminder to the rest of the nation that their way of life was threatened," he says.

"This is what it would have become. That it did not was because President Reagan acted, albeit primarily for reasons of national self-interest."

Nineteen American soldiers died in the initial assault and several days of skirmishes. Adkin says two army rangers also died when their parachutes failed to open.

He argues that the American soldiers had to overcome a lack of intelligence information on the island and poor preparation for the joint operation.

The U.S. military has done its own assessments on Grenada, finding fault with the lack of coordination and intelligence. Many details of those assessments remain classified, however.

A retired U.S. military officer, who served in the planning and execution of the Grenada inva-

sion, acknowledged some problems but said Adkin "doesn't tell the whole story."

The officer, who spoke only on condition he not be further identified, agreed that the troops operated without maps and up-to-date intelligence information but said Adkin should have noted that "a lot of decisions were made on the ground by ground commanders. They were able to adapt."

However, he agreed that the various armed forces were ill-prepared to work together and said the decision to use a combined force at that time was wrong.

The Grenada operation later was cited by Sen. William Cohen as the main reason for a 1986 bill mandating a joint special operations command.

"That it succeeded as it did, without costly setbacks, was due primarily to incredibly good fortune," Adkin says.

But he concludes that "for all the errors, for all the confusion, for all the suffering, Grenada and its people remain grateful to those bold enough to launch the operation and those bold enough to undertake it."

China seen trying to turn back the clock on reform

By Mark O'Neill
Reuters

PEKING — "All my hopes for reform are gone," said a young businessman meeting a foreign friend this month for the first time since June 4.

On that date the army crushed student-led protests in Peking. Countrywide arrests began immediately and the Communist party dismissed its reformist leader Zhao Ziyang.

Foreign embassies have been swamped with applications and angry crowds protested outside Australia's consulate in Shanghai this month because of visa restrictions.

Asked what had happened to him since June, the businessman shook his head sadly. "I can't say, I don't want to say. The crackdown is still going on. We don't know when it will end."

The official press has maintained a blackout on the extent of the suppression. Police officials decline to talk.

In parallel with sweeping arrests, the state-run media have launched increasingly xenophobic attacks on unnamed "hostile foreign forces", accusing them of plotting the overthrow of the Communist party.

At the same time, party and government leaders under Deng Xiaoping, 85, utter assurances that 10 years of economic reforms and the open-door policy will not change.

Roger Sullivan, president of the U.S.-China Business Council, is one of many Western business people who find this contradiction worrying.

Foreign companies welcomed official statements on China's future reforms, he told an investment conference in Peking this month.

"But they wonder at the same time about the frequent references in Chinese government statements and commentaries to foreign plots and subversion and the official rhetoric that seems to view everything with suspicion," he added.

A foreigner who has been coming to China as an official guest for two decades said:

"The atmosphere is as it was in the early 1970s. Officials I have known for years talk only about the weather and what people are wearing. It is taboo to speak of events in June except to repeat the official line."

An official who was host at a reception for him used the occasion to criticise the West and Japan for their suspension of new government loans in protest against the crackdown.

"This proves the loans have a political motive. If their aim was to help China develop, they would not have been stopped," the official said.

His guest asked if he knew why the loans were suspended.

"The protests were an attempt to overthrow the government. Any state would take measures to stop it," replied the official, with his colleagues at the reception listening intently.

Chinese intellectuals say the gulf between them and their government is wider than at any time since the radical cultural revolution launched by Mao Tse-tung in 1966.

Repression may save the Communist party, they say, but after 10 years of exposure to foreign ideas and capitalist-style economic reforms, the clock cannot be turned back.

Reasserting its authority, the party has sent graduates to rural areas, undergraduates to military academies, military lecturers to Buddhist temples and told everyone to study earnestly a keynote speech by new party leader Jiang Zemin.

The themes are similar to the early years of the cultural revolution. But the zeal of those days, has gone and, given a chance in private or abroad, people speak out.

One of Zhao's senior advisers, Chen Yizhi, head of the Economic Reform Institute who fled to France, commented:

"The massacre was a pre-announced plan by a small number of

elderly Communist party leaders to keep their political and economic power and privileges."

"It was an organised coup d'état to clear away ten years of reform," he said, as quoted by the Hong Kong Nineties magazine in its October issue.

The Nineties is one of the many publications Chinese are forbidden to read. To discuss such material with a Chinese in public is dangerous.

"The intellectuals of China have learnt a bitter lesson from the events of June," said one college professor who chose to meet in a Nondescript restaurant he believed would not be watched by the secret police.

"Before June, our society was becoming more liberal, though slowly. But we were too impatient. We went too fast, giving the hardliners the chance to counter-attack. Now we have lost what we had won and have gone back years," he said.

A foreign-trade official insisted this was not so, saying his work had been little influenced by the crackdown.

"For two months or so, the foreign firms stayed away. But they have come back now. There was hardly any effect at all in Guangdong and Fujian, in the south. China still has cheap labour and good business opportunities," he said.

But why the accusations in the press that there have been foreign attempts to overthrow Communism?

"You have misunderstood. The two are completely separate. We welcome foreign investment, as before. Nothing has changed. But, if foreigners do things against the government, we will oppose them. That is natural," he said.

The crackdown has meant a quiet life for many foreign residents of Peking.

"I meet Chinese only at official functions. We are all very stiff," said one East European diplomat. "Of those I knew personally before June, some have fled, others do not return my calls."

E. German media debate nation's problems

By Girard C. Steichen
The Associated Press

BERLIN — In a crowded East Berlin subway train, commuters shake their heads in disbelief as they flip through the Communist party newspaper Neues Deutschland, its pages brimming with workers' complaints and admissions of official bungling.

In an apartment not far from the Berlin Wall, an East Berlin family switches off a variety show on West German television to tune in to the state-controlled nightly newscast.

"We haven't watched it for years, but we make sure we do now," said Ulrike Schmidt, a 38-year-old schoolteacher.

In less than a week after the ouster of reform-resistant party leader Erich Honecker, East Germany's news media have shed their drab and doctrinaire image and given voice to unprecedented debate over the troubled nation's problems.

Although the media still toe the party's "leading role" line, the transformation has been as dramatic as it has been swift. Long scorned by East Germans who looked West for the news, the media have embarked on a campaign of relative openness about the causes of the nation's current unrest.

The shift has left many East Germans both amazed and sceptical.

"For years, the media here were a joke," said Joachim Lenz, a 25-year-old student at East Berlin's Humboldt University. "They had nothing to do with reality, and the newspapers were full of interviews with happy workers while the rest were packing up to go west."

One of the most frequent demands made by pro-democracy activists has been for a freer, more lively press.

Although there is still no legal alternative to the state-run press, government media have begun to respond to the widespread calls for broader, more realistic news coverage.

A day after Egon Kreutz took over as party leader last week, Neues Deutschland devoted four pages to critical examination of the nation's problems, including the flight of more than 55,000 East Germans to the West.

For the first time in their 40-year history, East Germany's media have offered prompt coverage of the pro-democracy street protests and other opposition events.

On Saturday, two senior Communist party officials engaged in an unusually candid debate with East Germans who had just marched through downtown East Berlin in demand of reforms. Less than two hours later, footage of the

heated exchange between East Berlin party chief Guenter Schabowski and Mayor Erhard Krack was shown on the nightly news show "aktuelle kamera."

East German television now routinely broadcasts live interviews with state officials, who were rarely seen a few weeks ago and whose policies were never questioned openly.

In a live TV call-in show Thursday, the day after Kreutz assumed power, East Germans grilled Communist officials on the government's long history of command-style leadership and its tight restrictions on foreign travel.

OPEN FORUM

Qualities of a good teacher

A TEACHER is a human being with a message and information to convey to a group of people. A teacher is a person who gives his or her experience and ideas about life to society.

Teaching is a talent, an attitude and a personality. There are lots of people who call themselves teachers, but are incapable of performing their teaching duties.

Here are the qualities of a good teacher as I see them:
A good teacher digs into her students' backgrounds, understands their motives, thus their behavior. She knows the different levels of her students and grows with the minds of her students. She knows the characteristics of their generation, the way they look at things and the way they understand their world. She knows the way they apprehend and learn.

A good teacher talks, discusses and interacts with her students — not simply gives a speech and as she comes in, goes out. A good teacher always thinks about her students, remembers their achievements, whether big or small. She remembers their good behavior and forgives more than she punishes.

A good teacher prepares the lesson, taking into consideration her students and not only books and the curriculum. A good teacher starts where the students are to make the process of knowledge continuous and organised.

A good teacher never imposes her personal life on the way she treats her students. She is always active and interesting by preparing for and thinking of her students.

A good teacher inspires her students to be better, by showing them their positive selves and does not focus on their negative selves. A good teacher tries to be liked and respected by her students, since she will live with them for almost a year.

Nojoud Nae-

The writer is a 10th grader at the Abdul Hamid Sharaf School in Swailiyeh.

Both sides dig in

By Joel Greenberg

AS THE INTIFADA approaches the end of its second year, the bloodletting in the territories continues unabated.

In the first two weeks of October, troops shot to death 19 Palestinians, including a three-year-old boy, the highest total for a fortnight since April, 1988, when massive riots broke out after the assassination of PLO military chief Khalil al-Wazir (Abu Jihad). The statistics were compiled by B'tselem, The Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories.

After nearly 24 months of fighting Palestinian rioters in the territories, and trying all manner of non-lethal riot control equipment, the IDF is apparently falling back again on the use of live ammunition. The latest indication is the new directives enabling soldiers to fire standard high-velocity bullets at masked Palestinian youths when trying to apprehend them.

The IDF judge-advocate general, Amnon Strashnow, argued this week that the directives do not mean a change in the IDF's basic open-fire orders, which stipulate that soldiers may only open fire in a life-threatening situation, or when trying to apprehend someone suspected of involvement in a serious crime.

Writing graffiti on a wall or hurling a single stone are not such crimes, Strashnow said, but the masked youths' involvement in slayings and brutal assaults on fellow Arabs justify preemptive action aimed at catching them.

The grim statistics speak for themselves. Since the new orders were put into effect in late August, there has been a steady flow of Palestinian fatalities, many of

whom were described by the IDF as "masked youths." In Nablus alone, residents report 16 persons killed since September 2.

In some fatal incidents, the IDF vaguely described the youths' activities as "inciting the population to violence." Palestinians have charged that in at least four cases, soldiers either "finished off" youths who had been shot and wounded, or fired at them at close range instead of arresting them. The IDF has categorically denied these allegations, and insists that soldiers followed the procedure for apprehending suspects (shouting orders to halt, firing in the air, and then at the legs).

The repeated charges of untrained shooting have raised serious questions about the discipline of soldiers, often from elite units, dispatched to apprehend the hardcore activists (sometimes in commandeered Arab cars and in civilian clothes, according to Arab reports). The mother of one soldier reported this week that her son showed her a photo of a masked youth and told her: "I can kill him if I want." The war against the masked youths is becoming ugly.

The conception guiding the campaign is that if the leading activists are nabbed, the level of violence in the territories will decline, the uprising will be slowed down, and a semblance of normality restored to daily life.

OC Central Command Yitzhak Mordechai said recently that great efforts are being expended now to catch and prosecute the youths leading the attacks on soldiers, settlers and fellow Arabs. Mordechai believes that blunt struck at this group are a blow at the spearhead of the uprising.

Strike forces

IN ESSENCE, the campaign against the masked youths is a struggle for control, to establish who governs the territories. The youths, organised in "strike forces" or other gangs, have become an independent enforcement arm: violently interrogating and killing alleged "collaborators" with Israel, and torching their cars and homes; setting up barricades and confiscating ID cards to enforce strikes and work boycotts; ordering pupils out of schools to demonstrate; and attacking troops.

The attempt to set up an alternative coercive force in the territories is nothing less than a direct challenge to the IDF's authority. This is why the army is trying so hard to root out the hard-core leaders involved in these activities.

The struggle has become more violent on both sides. While soldiers have been allowed to shoot more freely, the masked youths, often wearing black uniforms and capes, and carrying knives and hatchets, have stepped up their acts of violence, mostly against fellow Arabs suspected of "collaboration" with Israel.

In Nablus, residents speak of a gang of uneducated youths known as the "Black Panthers," who are considered responsible for many brutal slayings of alleged "collaborators." The group is widely believed to be out of control, defying instructions in uprising leaflets and even an appeal from PLO chief Yasser Arafat to stop the unbridled killings.

Some Nablus residents say the "Black Panthers" have imposed a reign of terror on the city, and are feared as much as IDF soldiers.

"We are caught here between the terrorism of the state, and the terrorism of the masked youths," said one man.

Residents say the "Black Panthers" were originally aligned with Fatah; another gang, "The Red Eagles," are said to be affiliated with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

Not afraid to die

AS FOR THE youths, the shooting and killing by soldiers seem to evoke more defiance, rather than fear. Ghassan Al-Masri's brother, Yassin, was killed at the Askar refugee camp near Nablus about a week ago. In a conversation this week in his home, Ghassan, a former prisoner who was himself wounded in clashes with troops, outlined the simple philosophy guiding him and his colleagues:

"We love life, but we are not afraid of death. When someone sees what the Zionist occupation is doing, he feels he must fight back in every way possible. Everyone feels that he has to fight for his country, to get a state. We are determined to continue the uprising."

Ghassan said later that he favours a two-state solution to the conflict with Israel: a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and Israel in its pre-1967 borders.

The Al-Masri family is convinced that Yassin was killed off by soldiers after he was initially wounded in the legs and arm. They cite reports according to which he was carried off by troops, wounded but conscious, and claim that his body was later returned by the army with bullet holes in the abdomen.

One of Yassin's sisters is sure that he was finished off after

soldiers discovered his green identity card limiting entry to Israel, routinely issued to administrative detainees after their release.

According to the IDF, Yassin received immediate treatment after he was wounded, but died. In general, says an IDF spokeswoman, "Our aim is to catch the youths. We make every effort to save the lives of the wounded."

In the end, the true events matter little, and the perception of what happened shapes attitudes and emotions.

Palestinians are digging in for protracted resistance, fortified by demonic images of a heartless enemy.

The IDF, too, is digging in for the long haul, just as determined not to show any sign of backing down in the face of Palestinian violence. Mordechai, unlike his predecessor, Amram Mitzna, speaks of "dealing with every stone" and "being everywhere in Judea and Samaria, in every inch of every village, town and refugee camp."

Mordechai's simple approach of "being everywhere" is amply demonstrated in the outposts he has scattered along West Bank highways. Rooftop outlook posts have been transformed into tent-campments, marked by a prominent Israeli flag, have been established. Communities put under curfew are promptly blocked off with mounds of earth and rock. Settlers speak of a "new sense of security."

The intifada and the war against it, will go on, escalating gradually, because neither side has become exhausted. In the absence of political progress, only one thing can be expected in the territories: more and more of the same — *The Jerusalem Post*.

A war of stones, slingshots and bullets.

Another African nation changes course

YET ANOTHER African country has decided on a sharp change in its politico-economic course. Benin is abandoning Marxism and introducing sweeping economic reforms.

With its economy described as being in "total disarray," the West African nation is adopting a reform programme prescribed by the International Monetary Fund. Under this Benin will be opened to foreign investment, banks will be privatised and the bloated civil service reduced.

Well over half of Africa's 50 independent countries have now embarked on radical economic reforms in which a common element is the greater role given to private enterprise. This follows the generally dismal performances of the state sectors in these countries.

Another fairly common factor is the scrapping of a commitment to Socialism. South Yemen's Marxist regime does not spell this out, but such a retreat is implicit in its promise to correct "past mistakes."

A recently announced reform package sets new goals in both domestic and foreign policies. It is aimed at restoring a crippled economy and ending South Yemen's isolation in the region.

The call to correct "wrong stands on Arab and Islamic culture and religion" will have been noted especially in neighbouring North Yemen and Saudi Arabia, with whom relations have been strained.

Meanwhile, the Soviet Union is adopting a philosophical attitude to the economic and ideological "wind of change" that is blowing, not only through Africa, but also over much of the rest of the world. While not admitting this publicly, it is probably even relieved at this development.

Authoritative commentators

speak approvingly of the "diversity of development paths open to African countries." They include Professor Nikolai Posukhin of the Africa Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences.

In a Moscow Radio broadcast for Africa, he noted: "There used to be a belief that capitalism had exhausted its potential and could no longer be a factor for social progress." Now, however, it was recognised that in Africa's present conditions, national capitalism was a "progressive phenomenon."

Soviet economists have also entered the debate, calling for a complete overhaul of economic relations with developing countries. Some have suggested a reduction in arms sales and in "ideologically approved" aid to regimes such as Cuba and Vietnam.

Instead, Moscow is urged to participate in United Nations-sponsored economic assistance programmes and to co-operate with the West in such schemes.

The debate has intensified since the official admission that USSR is owed the equivalent of \$138 billion in outstanding debts, much of which is unlikely to be repaid. This has led to sharp criticism of the confusion and wastefulness inherent in the aid system to date.

Most of the debts are for arms purchases because, as the leading newspaper, Izvestia, has pointed out, this form of aid greatly outweighs Soviet non-military aid.

Only about a quarter of these debts are repayable in hard currencies. The major debtors are Ethiopia, Mozambique and Vietnam, which has been quoted as a recipient of "excessive" help on ideological grounds.

The Vietnamese had failed to produce their own cement be-

cause they could get it from the Soviet Union on credit — and at a subsidised price — *Lions features*

Anis Mansour: The importance of dialogue

By Katia Sabet

CAIRO — A man of dialogue and a foremost proponent of the Israeli-Egyptian peace negotiations, Anis Mansour has carved a name in the news media, in literature and in politics. And a rare achievement, this 65-year-old former philosophy professor has bridged the gap between intellectual reflection and action.

He sits in the Egyptian parliament and heads the local chapter of P.E.N. International, a prestigious literary group. He has received numerous national and international awards, including the Third World Prize for Intellectual Creation presented to him by the Indian parliament in 1982. Author of 130 books, including novels and erudite works on history, philosophy and travels, he has seen nine of his books made into movies and many others filmed for television. Arab readers will remember him for his translations of major English, French, Italian and German literary works into Arab, which led to a close relationship between Mansour and the world-famous Italian author Alberto Moravia.

Mansour's love for the immediacy of the news media still endures and has left its mark on the Egyptian scene: after stints as chief editor of various publications, he founded the magazine "October" in 1976 and stayed at the helm for 10 years.

Today, from his office on the 9th floor of the "October" building, Mansour looks at the Nile as it caresses the banks of Gheziret island, an oasis of green in dusty Cairo. His warm welcome and relaxed attitude show years of experience in handling the media, whether he is the news gatherer or the interviewee. But these days he is the one who is sought after for his shrewd political comments and assessments. Following are excerpts from a recent interview on the politics of the Middle East and problems faced by developing countries.

On Egypt's return to the Arab League from which it had been ostracised after signing a peace agreement with Israel in 1979: "Egypt's attitude during the long years of the Arab boycott led to its readmission within the league. We accepted the boycott because we respect each country's right to make its own decisions. Egypt espoused the Palestinian cause, we fought for it, we suffered enormous losses, and then we decided that it was time to speak of peace with Israel; it's illogical for wars to go on indefinitely. Victory has no value unless it is followed by political negotiations. At some point fighting must stop and differences must be ironed out at the conference table. A negotiated solution

can be found to any problem."

"During the Camp David accords (in 1978) between Egypt and Israel we had hoped to be able to start a dialogue between the Arab (states) concerned and Israel, but we did not get a chance."

On the political climate in the Middle East:

"It seems that the relationship between Arab nations has reached a certain maturity and balance. This is due in part to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's pragmatism and moderation. By nature he is a moderate who has a clear notion of what his country's problems are and who knows full well that there is no need to add other nations' problems to the burden. The friendly relationship he has established with Arab nations and the superpowers is helping build stability in the Middle East."

On the Palestinian problem and the Lebanese conflict:

"Before the Casablanca summit (held in Morocco last May) all the Arab nations could speak in the name of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation. Now it's up to the PLO to speak for itself, but the root of the problem is that it has more than one voice, some very marginal. It's up to the PLO to deal with this." "All Arabs believe it's time to end the deaths and suffering in Lebanon's 13-year-old civil war. In Casablanca President Mubarak asked that the participants' joint communiqué include a motion for the pull-out of all non-Lebanese troops from Lebanon — Syrian and Iranian as well as Israeli."

On Egypt's newly patched relationship with Libya:

"Between the two countries there is a hypersensitivity even today because their dialogue was interrupted for so long. Egypt does not feel secure yet about Libya's Qadhafi's reactions. President Mubarak handled the situation very cautiously, but a climate of détente is pervading: the borders have been reopened, the 1 million Egyptians working in Libya can now come back for visits and millions of dollars were transferred to Egyptian banks; also, delegations of lawyers and engineers went to Libya, and tourism is picking up on both sides. It is a start."

On Egypt's relationship with Israel:

"The Arabs are our brothers. Egyptians disapprove of what's happening in the occupied territories. The way the Israelis are repressing the intifada is inhuman. And it's not easy to talk with the Likud (Israeli ruling conservative party) and with Prime Minister Shamir. He is hard-headed, obstinate. But the situation will change thanks to pressures exerted by the United States, by the Soviet Union and by France. France especially can play a crucial role. There are

affinities between President Mitterrand and President Mubarak, and the French socialist president has obvious ties to the Israeli left."

On the rise of fundamentalism in some Arab states:

"Fundamentalism, fanaticism are bred by ignorance. Any extremist, whatever his creed, is an ignorant person whose mind is closed to open discussions and who admits only one truth — his. In its name he gives himself the right to condemn those who disagree and to destroy them."

Many explanations have been given to explain the rise of fundamentalism in Egypt and in the Middle East. In fact there has always been some fundamentalism in the region: wherever there is an established religion you find extremists on the fringes. Here modern fundamentalism developed under the late President Nasser, and against him. It continued when (the late) President Anwar Sadat was at the helm, and it killed him. Maybe it's a form of dissidence, a way of saying no. Or it could be a result of the economic situation. In any case it was fed by the Iranian revolution. Yet at first Muslims saw the overthrow of the Shah of Iran as a renaissance which would bring Islam out of the Middle Ages and make it the religion of the 21st century."

"Fanaticism exists also in Israel: there is no difference between a far-right Israeli extremist and a Nazi. Same mentality."

On Egypt's economic problems:

"We have problems, many problems, and no magic wand to solve them. Our main handicap is the galloping demographic growth which we can't seem to be able to slow down. No solutions can be found until this is under control. But it's not easy to tell a peasant to limit the size of his family when each son can bring in extra pay as soon as he reaches 8 or 9 years of age."

On what the future holds:

"The future? I don't see any simple solutions. We are still far from the 'United Arab States.' In Europe they basically have nine languages, throughout the Middle East there is one language, which brings to mind a comment by Irish humorist Bernard Shaw: England and America are two nations separated by one language, he said. Well, we are a number of nations separated by the same language, the same religion, the same geopolitical situation. My conclusion is that the creation of a united Arab entity, no matter how beneficial it would be, is not for tomorrow." — *World News Link*

A prolific writer and philosopher, Anis Mansour is also famous for his political savvy.

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JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Gulf Arab banks weigh Mexico debt

BAHRAIN (R) — Gulf-based creditor banks are likely to choose the debt service reduction option in Mexico's landmark financing package, regional bankers have said.

They said Gulf banks, with an estimated \$1 billion of loan exposure to Mexico, favoured reduction in interest rather than principal because this would enable them to absorb their losses gradually over the coming years.

Few Gulf institutions were likely to take the new-money option because they were not confident the financing package, aimed at reducing Mexico's \$52.7 billion of medium and long-term debt, would work.

"The interest rate reduction bonds are probably the most palatable for us because it means

we can gradually write off our losses, rather than taking an immediate 35 per cent hit," one senior banker who wished to remain anonymous said.

"The debt reduction bonds will not be as popular because most Gulf banks do not have the provisions to support a loss of that size and will not receive the tax reduction benefits that a bank in Europe would get from the scheme," he said.

The banker spoke after a presentation in Bahrain by Mexico's top debt negotiator, Angel Gurria.

Gurria, Mexico's director general of public credit, outlined details of the financing scheme which analysts hope will provide the country with \$2 to \$3 billion a year in debt relief and new finance.

The package gives Mexico's 450 creditor banks three options: They can provide new loans in addition to the debt outstanding, accept a lower interest rate at a flat 6.25 per cent on their current loans, or write off 35 per cent of the current debt.

Gurria — who also visited Tokyo, London, Zurich, Rome, Paris and Frankfurt as part of "roadshow" to drum up support — told Reuters he hoped 15 per cent of the banks would provide new cash, compared with an earlier target of 20.

"It's early days yet to see what the response will be but we think that there is enough interest on each one of the options to provide Mexico with an adequate cash flow," he said.

"A lot of banks are saying maybe I don't need to take a hit on Mexico because it is doing well and practising good economic policies... maybe I'll stick to new money," he said.

A banker representing the creditors said since the plan was announced on Sept. 13, there had been only one commitment to put up new money. Citicorp, a staunch supporter, had also promised cash but had not yet said how much, Gurria said.

Banks must commit new funds by Oct. 31 in order to receive a so-called early bird premium fee. Several Gulf-based bankers said the deadline should be extended.

The meeting grouped banks from Bahrain, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.



Water and Irrigation Minister Mohammad Al Kilaani (second from right), authorises start of work on King Abdullah Canal by signing the necessary documents. (Petra photo)

Ministry awards maintenance job on King Abdullah Canal

AMMAN (Petra) — A consortium of two local and foreign companies has won a contract from the Ministry of Water and Irrigation to carry out maintenance work on the King Abdullah Canal in the Jordan Valley.

Under an agreement signed Tuesday by Water and Irrigation Minister Mohammad Saleh Al Kilani and representatives of the two companies, the consortium will conduct engineering studies for maintaining the structural body of the canal and the installations attached to it which have been exposed to corrosion and sustained cracks and other damages due to natural causes.

The cracks and the damage have caused excessive leakage of irrigation water, requiring replacement of sections and canal

gates for proper distribution of water to the fields, according to a statement issued at the signing ceremony.

The two companies will carry out dredging of residues and silt in the canal bed so as to boost utilisation of water. The two companies will conduct the studies and prepare tender documents within a year, it said.

The total cost of the project is expected to reach JD 350,000 to be provided through a grant from the European Community (EC) under the third protocol signed with Jordan, the statement noted.

Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) Acting Secretary-General Zahir Al Aalam said that JVA was conducting studies and undertaking whatever necessary work to

increase water resources for irrigation purposes and to carry out maintenance work on water networks so as to boost water distribution from 45 per cent to 75 per cent.

The JVA, he added, has embarked on a project for transforming the central Ghor canal into a water pipe network to provide water for 1,667 agricultural units with a total area of 62,000 dunams, Aalam noted.

He said that the project was expected to be completed by the end of 1989. Another project due to start in the coming year, Aalam said, entails transforming all the main and branch canal network into a pressurised system to serve 1960 agricultural units with a total area of 73,000 dunams.

Egyptians fail to find richness in Libya

IMSA'ED, Libya (R) — Egyptians are flocking across the newly reopened border with Libya to seek their fortunes, but many say the dreams of high paying jobs quickly turned to dust.

Egyptians interviewed at the village of Imssa'ed, five kilometres inside Libya, spoke of disappointment and frustration among thousands of compatriots who have crossed the border since it opened in June.

Mohammad Abu Serie, 25, a carpenter from central Egypt, said he was returning penniless after three months of fruitless job-hunting.

He said he travelled 1,700 kilometres by road to get to Libya, lured by many Egyptians as a land of opportunity where they can escape the unemployment and low wages of home.

Others heading back to Egypt said they were forced to return after only a few weeks in Libya. They said many Egyptians had to sleep on the streets of Tripoli and Benghazi, Libya's biggest cities.

Ismael Sheta, a 29-year old farmer, said the lucky ones were offered jobs paying 80 Libyan dinars (\$228) a month but could save nothing on this wage.

As dozens of Egyptians queued at the desert outpost to clear immigration and return home, poorer and wiser, taxis and buses brought scores more from the other direction.

"They will soon find out the difference between the dream and the reality," said Abu Serie, returning to his pregnant wife and two children.

The reopening of the border followed reconciliation talks between President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt and Colonel Muammar Qadhafi of Libya at an Arab summit in Morocco last May.

Last week the leaders of the two countries, which fought a brief border war in 1977, exchanged visits for the first time in 16 years and agreed to lift travel restrictions.

The influx of Egyptians has been matched by a steady stream of Libyan holidaymakers seeking a change from the rigid lifestyle of socialist Libya.

The sudden flow of travellers has created a mini-boom for tribesmen and nomads on both sides of the border who run a thriving black market currency exchange.

Moroccan monarch makes key changes

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco has replaced the governor of the central bank and named a new minister to oversee plans to privatise hundreds of state-run firms, official sources said Tuesday.

They said Ahmad Bennani, who as governor was one of the key figures behind combined austerity and liberalisation policies of the last five years, was succeeded by Mohammad Sekkat. Sekkat is currently secretary-general of the Arab Maghreb Union — a regional grouping created last February to link Tunisia, Algeria, Morocco, Libya and Mauritania in a form of North African common market. He will combine both posts.

Informed sources said Bennani would shortly be appointed to another top post in either government or industry.

At a ceremony at King Hassan's seaside palace of Skhirat, 20 kilometres south of Rabat, the Moroccan monarch also entrusted Moulay Zine Zahidi — an economics minister in the office of the prime minister — with the privatisation portfolio.

The king told Zahidi that plans to privatise many state-owned industries formed an integral part of a wider policy of decentralisation of power.

"What we want is that wealth, instead of it being kept and monopolised by certain sectors, can be put to the benefit of all the regions of Morocco," the king said.

He said that the state must not seek to put inefficient industries on the point of collapse or running at a loss into the hands of the public.

Portugal hopes to cut inflation

LISBON (R) — Portugal, afflicted with one of Western Europe's highest inflation rates, should start getting a grip on its number one economic enemy next year, central bank governor Jose Tavares Moreira has said.

Policy-makers in the European Community's (EC's) poorest country are struggling with a delicate balancing act to stop the economy overheating while ensuring enough investment and growth to restructure industry and agriculture so Portugal can catch up with the rest of Europe.

"I think we can make some progress in 1990 to reduce inflation," Tavares Moreira told Reuters in an interview.

He said Portugal had set modest targets to slow a rising cost of living and hoped to cut the annual average inflation rate to about 10 per cent next year from 13 per cent in 1989. Last month it was more than 12 per cent.

"What is important is not to reverse the (deceleration) process, that would be very dangerous. I would prefer to make modest progress (rather than) be too ambitious and have to reverse the trend," he explained.

But he said tight monetary and fiscal policies were necessary to fight inflation by keeping a consumer spending boom and state expenditure in check.

Brisk consumer demand has boosted imports, sending Portugal's current account \$600 million into the red last year. But Tavares Moreira said there were now signs the deficit was under control thanks to stronger than expected exports, partly due to a high level of foreign investment.

Credit controls imposed last March helped dampen demand at home, he said. Interest rates were another effective tool traditionally used to control the Portuguese economy, which grew by some four per cent last year.

Portugal's high inflation is a major block to its joining the exchange rate mechanism of the European Monetary System and officials say the rate must first swing down to the EC average, currently around five per cent.

Tavares Moreira and Portugal would probably not be ready to tie the escudo into the semi-fixed exchange rate mechanism for another three to four years.

The currency is maintained by government intervention against a trade-weighted basket of currencies although it is allowed to float for a period each trading day.

ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Ministry closes four factories

AMMAN (Petra) — Four Jordanian paint factories were ordered closed for two weeks for violating standards and specifications regulations. The announcement was made by Trade and Industry Minister Ziad Innab who said that these four factories have sold their products in the local market. The minister has ordered the immediate withdrawal of all defect products from the market and warned the concerned industries not to sell any product which violates standards and specifications law in the future.

'Arab Industrial Integration fails'

TUNIS (R) — Arab industry ministers, opening a congress in Tunis Monday, were told that almost all efforts to promote inter-Arab industrial projects had failed. "Despite numerous Arab accords and decisions in the area of economic union... economic complementarity and a common market are in difficulty," said Syrian Industry Minister Antoine Jubran, chairman of the Arab ministerial committee. Jubran said most of the initiatives failed because Arab nations wanted to create industries at a national level and link their economies to international markets.

Anadarko to search for Algerian oil

ALGIERS (R) — The U.S. Anadarko Petroleum Corp. has signed a \$100 million contract with Algeria to prospect for oil for eight years in the Sahara, the official news agency TASS has said. The contract, signed with the state petroleum agency Sonatrach, covers four permits totalling 21,000 square kilometres in the western Erg area of the Sahara. APS said Anadarko was the first American company to prospect for oil in Algeria. It said it was a production-sharing deal whereby Anadarko's investment will be paid for with a share of output. It was Sonatrach's fourth contract with a foreign company since deals signed with Agip Mineraria of Italy in 1987, Cespa of Spain in 1988, and BHP of Australia last June. APS said two more contracts would soon be signed with foreign firms, including Total of France and Neste of Finland. Talks were also underway with other North American, European and Asian petroleum companies, it said, but did not name them.

Spain, Israel sign agreement

MADRID (AP) — Israel and Spain have signed a five-year agreement to increase scientific and technical cooperation, officials said. The agreement was signed by Israel's Science and Technology Minister Ezer Weizman and the Spanish Education and Science Minister Javier Solana. The agreement calls for an exchange of university researchers, joint use of scientific facilities, and the joint realisation of research projects.

U.S. firms sign for N. Yemeni job

SANAA (R) — Exxon and Hunt corps are to build a small gas liquefaction plant east of the capital, Sanaa, the North Yemen News Agency (SABA) has reported. The agency said an agreement to build the plant was signed by North Yemen Oil and Mineral Resources Minister Ahmad Ali Al Muhani and representatives of the two U.S. firms. It involves setting up liquefaction units, storage and loading facilities near Mareb about 200 kilometres east of Sanaa, SABA said. It added the plant will meet the country's domestic consumption of cooking gas. SABA said work on the plant will begin "within the next months after the completion of legal procedures." North Yemen currently produces 190,000 barrels a day of oil and officials estimate the country's gas reserves at over 5.5 trillion cubic feet.

Iran non-oil exports rise 27%

NICOSIA (R) — Iranian non-oil exports jumped more than 27 per cent to 35.6 billion riyals (\$508 million) in the six months to Sept. 21, the official news agency IRNA has said. IRNA said 625,000 tonnes of goods, including carpets, pistachio nuts and caviar, were exported over the period.

S. Arabia clarifies financial status

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia has said it was up to date on meeting all its financial commitments. "I want to make it clear the government is not delaying meeting its financial obligations despite allegations that it has overdue payments," Finance and National Economy Minister Mohammad Ali Abal Khalil said. The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) quoted him as saying the kingdom's spending was in line with its budget plans. "The kingdom has so far spent 118 billion riyals (\$16.4 billion) from the beginning of its fiscal year 1410 months ago out of its total budget which is 140 billion riyals (\$19.3 billion)," he noted. He was giving the figures "to clear the government's financial record," SPA said. "Whoever has an overdue payment from the Saudi government should come forward and ask for it after clearing all legal matters," the agency quoted Abal Khalil as saying.

Telerate reports lower earnings

NEW YORK (AP) — Telerate Inc., which delivers computerised financial information, has said its third-quarter earnings dropped 17.4 per cent compared with a year earlier despite a 14.3 per cent increase in revenue. Separately, Telerate said it is in negotiations to buy the 50 per cent stake that its partner American Telephone and Telegraph Co. owns in the joint venture Global Transactions Services Co. In its earnings report, Telerate said it had net income of \$19.5 million, or 21 cents per share, in the three months ended Sept. 30 compared with \$23.6 million, or 25 cents per share, a year earlier. Third-quarter revenue rose to \$127.8 million from \$112.3 million a year earlier.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday October 24, 1989
Central Bank official rates

	Buy	Sell	French franc	99.9	100.9
U.S. dollar	627.0	633.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	441.0	445.4
Pound Sterling	1001.3	1011.3	Dutch guilder	300.4	303.4
Deutschemark	339.3	342.7	Swedish crown	97.6	98.6
Swiss franc	387.0	390.9	Italian lira (for 100)	46.2	46.7
			Belgian franc (for 10)	160.8	162.4

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One Sterling	1.5960/70	U.S. dollars	
One U.S. dollar	1.1700/10	Canadian dollar	
	1.8467/74	Deutschemarks	
	2.0855/65	Dutch guilders	
	1.6180/90	Swiss francs	
	38.78/81	Belgian francs	
	6.2720/70	French francs	
	1356/1357	Italian lire	
	142.00/10	Japanese yen	
	6.4110/60	Swedish crowns	
	6.8970/9020	Norwegian crowns	
	7.1900/50	Danish crowns	
One ounce of gold	366.30/366.80	U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

SYDNEY — Australia's share market slid to a sharply weaker close as selling accelerated in the last hour of trading. The All Ordinaries index lost 19.0 to 1,649.1.

TOKYO — Index-linked selling together with a feeling that it was time for the market to take a break reversed an early rising trend. The Nikkei index erased 58.97 to 35,526.55.

HONG KONG — Stocks ended the day barely changed, disappointing those who had expected bargain-hunting to fuel a rise. The Hang Seng index fell 0.2 to 2,731.97.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed easier after late profit-taking pared early gains in quiet trading. The Straits Times industrial index fell 6.60 to 1,358.42.

BOMBAY — Prices finished mixed on alternate bouts of nervous selling and speculative buying as candidates for November's national elections started filing nominations. Voltas fell 15 rupees to 890 and Associated Cement three to 293.

FRANKFURT — Prices of major shares were quoted sharply lower in post-bourse trading in line with the sharp fall in U.S. shares. The DAX index earlier closed just over one per cent lower at 1,507.37.

ZURICH — Stocks closed lower as investors, cautious over Wall Street's weak performance, switched funds from the share market to the fixed-rate sector. The all-share Swiss performance index fell 16.1 to the day's low of 1,129.8.

LONDON — Share prices in late trading were sharply lower in reaction to the slump on Wall Street. But a rally in New York from a loss of just over 80 points lifted U.K. shares above the lows. At 1523 GMT the FTSE index was down 34.3 at 2,155.4.

NEW YORK — Blue chips were steady at lower levels in late-morning trading after partially recovering from sharply lower levels earlier. The Dow was down 52 at 2,610.

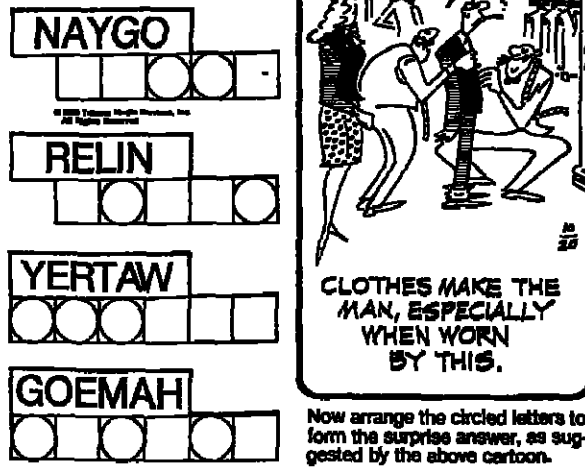
THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE.

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

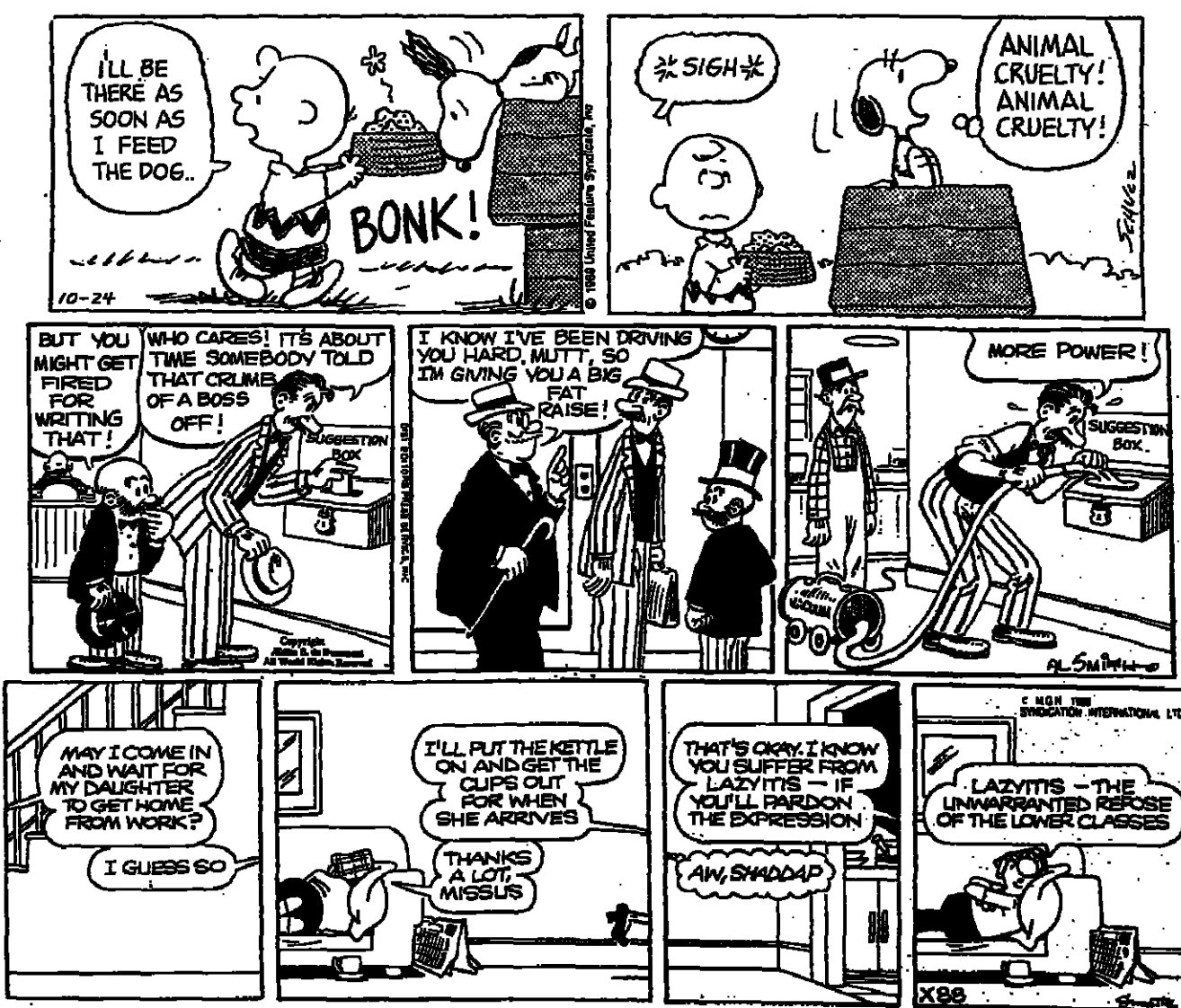


Answer: THE (Answers tomorrow)

Peanuts

Mutt'n' Jeff

Andy Capp



Dutch police arrest youth over soccer bomb attack

AMSTERDAM (R) — Dutch police said Tuesday they had arrested a 17-year-old youth in connection with a weekend bomb attack at a soccer stadium which injured 14 people.

Two other youths have been held since Sunday on suspicion of throwing two home-made bombs in Amsterdam's packed Ajax Stadium during a match between Ajax and Feyenoord.

Police said the youth was from Rotterdam, Feyenoord's home town. The other two were Feyenoord fans.

Sunday's attack has heightened Dutch concern over smug soccer violence.

An opinion poll in the Telegraaf newspaper Tuesday showed that 42 per cent of the Dutch public supported a suggestion by Ajax director Arie Van Eijden that all professional soccer should

be suspended for six months to try to solve the problem.

Some 83 per cent of the 509 people surveyed felt soccer hooligans should be more severely punished.

One Ajax supporter, arrested in September for hurling an iron rod that injured Austria Vienna's goalkeeper during a UEFA Cup match, was released last week after 21 days in jail and a sentence of 80 hours community service.

Dutch politicians have been at a loss over how to control soccer violence, which led to 924 arrests last season, about a third more than the previous year.

Last August the Netherlands abandoned efforts to introduce an identity card system for supporters after Feyenoord fans smashed their way into the Utrecht Stadium.

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Reagan throws out first pitch in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — With former U.S. president Ronald Reagan throwing out the ceremonial first pitch, the Kintetsu Buffaloes shut out the Yomiuri Giants 3-0 Tuesday to move within one game of sweeping Japan's version of the world series. A capacity crowd of 56,000 cheered Reagan's toss, which narrowly missed the backside of Buffaloes' batter Daijiro Ohishi. Reagan, wearing a blue suit, laughed and waved to the crowd. Some people chanted, "Reagan, Reagan," the former president is in Japan on a nine-day visit. Ralph Bryant's RBI double in the first inning was all the offense needed by the Buffaloes. Tetsuro Kato pitched a three-hitter over 6 1-3 innings as the Pacific League champion Kintetsu went up 3-0 in the best-of-7 series. The Buffaloes are seeking their first ever Japanese title. The fourth game will be played Wednesday at the Tokyo Dome, home of the central league champion Giants.

Kulti wins opening match in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Top-seeded Nicolas Kulti of Sweden, displaying strong ground strokes, easily beat Tadaaki Isaji of Japan 6-1, 6-1 in the opening singles match Tuesday of the Japan Airlines super junior tennis championships. The 18-year-old Kulti, the winner of this year's Wimbledon singles championship, will meet Masayuki Ando of Japan in the second round Wednesday. No. 2-seeded American Tommy Ho from Florida, ranked 460th in the world, beat Alistair Hunt of New Zealand 6-3, 6-4 on the outdoor hard court of the Ebara Shonan sports centre in Fujisawa, 40 kilometres southwest of Tokyo. In the second round, Ho is to meet Masafuji Komada of Japan. No. 3 seeded Martin Damm of Czechoslovakia beat Masahide Sakamoto of Japan 6-4, 6-2. Andrei Medvedev of the Soviet Union upset fourth-seeded Carlos Engel of Brazil 3-6, 6-3, 7-5. Hidehiko Tanizawa, who in September became the youngest boy to win the all-Japan tennis championship, beat fellow Japanese Takao Kondo 6-4, 6-1.

Woehrmann beats Courier

FRANKFURT (R) — Second seed Jim Courier of the United States was beaten 4-6, 6-1, 1-6 by West German Jens Woehrmann in the first round of the \$27,000 men's grand prix tennis tournament Monday. Courier, who beat former Wimbledon champion Stefan Edberg of Sweden in a tournament final in Switzerland three weeks ago, could find no answer to Woehrmann's precise baseline drives. "I took a week's rest (from tournaments) and concentrated on preparing for this one. Everything went perfectly in the last set," said Woehrmann, ranked 74th in the world. Fourth seed Jonas Svensson of Sweden and fifth seed Goran Ivanisevic of Yugoslavia were also beaten.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 1989

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Minor annoyances that are in effect today are apt to be taken more seriously than they actually are, since most persons are inclined to feel sorry for themselves and to have some self pity.

ARIES: (March 20 to April 17) Discuss your present business affairs with an outside expert. Give your own family much desired compliments at this time.

TAURUS: (April 18 to May 19) Entertain as much as possible at your residence today, particularly in keeping promises made to your partner pays off dividends.

GEMINI: (May 20 to June 20) A situation at home keeps you from entertaining at your residence. Bigger business aims can be secured by pursuing outside periodicals.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 21 to July 21) Go to see friends but use more care on the highway. Spend some extra money now to make your home more attractive.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You would be wise to invite close and confidential friends into your home. Every detail of your finances or business now is very important.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21) Happy times with good friends are best realized in intimate talks. Don't allow much confusion at home to get on your nerves.

LIBRA: (September 22 to October 22) Friends look on you with much favour and pride, so enjoy their society. Financial benefits depend upon the support given to you by

others.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) There is so much activity of a business nature you need to be very selective. You need to do more what your friends expect of you now.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 20) Carefully study every single factor involved before spending money. Home conditions will require much tact on your part.

CAPRICORN: (December 21 to January 19) Experienced friends should be encouraged now to aid you in your usual routines. Look for modern ideas through which to do your business.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 17) Many new friends can now enter your life, but one friend gives confusing advice regarding business. Get your house in order for some interesting entertaining in the near future.

PISCES: (February 18 to March 19) Old friends will expect a good deal of you now so don't disappoint them. Do special favours now for your attachment.

Today's child: If your child were born today he or she will be one of those well coordinated well balanced individuals who can formulate a plan of action that makes a lot of common sense and stick with it, without faltering to the happy conclusion. If this progeny sticks to business they will have much success in this lifetime.

"The stars imply, they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you.

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The National Music Conservatory, tel. 687620

Van Basten

aiming for 2nd
European title

DUTCH international Marco Van Basten, in superb form for AC Milan after just three matches following a six-week absence through injury, is aiming for his second title as European footballer of the year.

"If the second title arrives, I certainly won't be sending in back. Didn't Platini win it three times, and Cruyff?" said Van Basten, the 1988, winner and a favourite again this year.

"But there's no hurry. I've still got time to win again. Everything is possible. I could even overtake Platini and Cruyff," he told the Italian daily Gazzetta Dello Sport.

City rivals and defending champions Internazionale knocked out of Europe and fourth in the Italian League, are finding how hard life is at the top when battling injuries.

International defender Riccardo Ferri has been playing with a painful shoulder for two weeks and doctors would like to operate.

But Inter manager Giovanni Trapattoni said he must soldier on. "An operation would mean losing Ferri for two to three months. Neither Inter nor the national side can run a risk like that."

There was better news for Italy's top goalkeeper Walter Zenga, replaced at halftime in Inter's match at Napoli Sunday only to watch his replacement let in two goals.

Zenga said he had merely strained a leg muscle and was determined to play next Sunday.

Spain's Real Sociedad, who by tradition used to restrict their team to Basques, are finding that investment in foreigners can reap good dividends.

The San Sebastian side, whose 2-2 draw with Barcelona Saturday was due to goals from recent signing John Aldridge, Ireland's former Liverpool striker, watched Henk Frazer of Dutch League leaders Roda JC at Groningen last weekend.

The 23-year old centre-back, who made his international debut for the Netherlands against Denmark in September, has also been a target for West Germany's Borussia Dortmund.

The French League, meanwhile, is bracing itself for a minor shake up.

A crisis committee is expected Wednesday to announce the reduction of the first division from 20 to 18 clubs from 1991, abolition of the two-leg system in the French Cup and transfer guidelines following a number of rows last season.

The transfer period is officially closed in France, although clubs are entitled to one late reinforcement and British newspapers Sunday said champions Marseille were about to sign England's captain Bryan Robson.

But the club's president Bernard Tapie denied the reports. "We have enough good players in our squad. It is hard enough already to make them play together," he said.

Marseille can, however, now field West German defender Karlheinz Foerster in league matches, in which the number of foreigners per team is limited to three.

Foerster obtained French citizenship on Saturday, permitting Marseille to include him along with their foreigners.

GYMNASTICS:

With one medal in Stuttgart,
U.S. prepares for home stand

STUTTGART (AP) — The United States comes back from the world gymnastics championships with one medal in hand and with confidence it can build on that during two home stands in many years.

Brandy Johnson took silver in the vault over the weekend, the highlight of a strong performance of the women's team, which finished fourth in the team competition.

The men's squad came to earn experience — and did so. It hardly got in a medal chase but regained its place among the top 10 in the world after a disappointing showing at the Seoul Olympic games last year.

U.S. coaches feel time is on their side to turn both teams into medal challengers.

The Goodwill Games will bring the world's best gymnasts to Seattle next year, and 1991 stands for the next world championships in the Indianapolis Hoosier Dome.

"We are looking for a shot at the medals in Indianapolis," said coach Jim Hartung of the men's

team. "We are back on the right track and we were one of the most improved teams in Stuttgart."

But the gymnasts still need a lot of maturing. Shaky nerves on the last routine of the team event caused them to slump into eighth place overall. National champion Tim Ryan even failed to make it into the individual finals.

"Our top guys had several misses," said coach Ed Burch.

"Ryan has got to learn to relax." Ryan was only 18 when he won the national championship earlier this year, the youngest since 1975 champion Bart Conner.

"For four gymnasts it was their first major competition," Hartung said. Kevin Davis, at 23, was the veteran and finished tops on the squad for the team event.

Unfortunately he had to cut the individual competition because of injury. Best place in the all-around competition went to Lance Ringwald, who was 29th overall.

Many on the squad can still look at the 1992 Olympic games

with hopes of reaching their peak in Barcelona.

"This is a team that you may see in 1991, even 1992," said Davis.

"The team has a lot of young new faces," added Ryan, as the likes of China and East Germany should become bear nations in the next few years.

The overpowering Soviet Union, however, will most likely remain out of reach. It won 18 medals in the nine-day championships and, led by Igor Korobchinski and Svetlana Boginskaya, swept the golds in the team and individual all-around events.

Although the U.S. women finished closer to the Soviets in the team competition, a challenge for gold also seems unlikely. The Soviets even swept all the medals in the women's all-around event.

But in Johnson, 16, the team found a confident challenger, who overcame a bad streak in the team series to grow to seventh place in the individual event, just ahead of Sandy Woolsey, and a medal in an apparatus final.

BASEBALL:

Players disappointed at delay

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — Word that resumption of the earthquake-delayed world series would be pushed back at least three more days to Friday has upset many of the players.

"They ought to play it or not play it," designated hitter Dave Parker of the Oakland Athletics said when he learned that the suspended series would resume Friday instead of Tuesday as announced last week.

"I know Bay area fans would like it to stay here, but evidently conditions aren't right. There are a lot of players who don't live in the Bay area, and I'm one of them. I haven't seen my home or my kids in nine months."

San Francisco Giants catcher Bill Barthe joked about his disappointment.

"All I want to know is, who's bringing the Thanksgiving turkey," he said. "I might have to go out and start shopping for my Christmas cards before the series is over."

If the series goes a full seven games, the final contest would be held on November 1 and mark the first time the championship has been played in that month.

The series, which began on October 14, was suspended last Tuesday when the earthquake that struck northern California rumbled through San Francisco's Candlestick Park half an hour before the scheduled start of the third game.

If the third game can be played at Candlestick Friday as now

hoped, it will have been 11 days since the last game, won 5-1 by the Athletics in Oakland on October 15 for a 2-0 series lead.

The hiatus would nearly double the previous longest stretch of inactivity during a world series, which ironically occurred between the Giants and A's teams in 1911.

Six days of rain kept the teams from playing the fourth game of the series, won eventually by the Philadelphia Athletics by four games to two over the New York Giants.

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THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Asian land to
- Full window treatment
- Coarse file
- Volcanic
- Out of the wind
- Marion follower
- Scowling
- Wander
- Conary
- Islandic
- Barry collection
- Plastic money
- Minute opening
- Kicks out
- Buying binge
- Put aside
- Sword
- "Baked in ..."
- Kind of module
- Rake
- Ma Taronilla
- Prickly shrub
- Sales woman?
- Cuban patriot
- Age and
- Compulsive buyer
- Deck
- Legal claim
- Fast time
- "Silent"
- Relax on d—
- Put on cargo
- Farewell
- Back talk
- Something to pump
- Spirited horse

DOWN

- Land measure
- Regretted
- Saharan
- NYC
- Over there
- Sterile
- Century plant
- Peruse
- Trucker's rig
- Hero's action
- Comfortable
- Take off
- Avalita
- Decision
- Demiler
- Sped
- Unsettled
- poets
- HR stop abbr.
- Chance
- 28th
- Members
- Baden Baden
- Each
- Diary
- Mrs Madril
- Linda of song
- Meat leftover
- Exploit
- Mountain or
- profit chaser
- Pare
- Rev
- Pipe types
- Makes
- Tidy up
- Ad —
- committee
- Double agents
- Singer Bryant
- "— want for..."
- Close
- China
- Great Lake
- Busy as —
- Stanford
- Talk too much

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52 E. German legislators revolt as Krenz is elected head of state

EAST BERLIN (R) — Fifty-two members of parliament staged a revolt unprecedented in East Germany's history Tuesday as Communist Party leader Egon Krenz was approved as head of state.

Twenty-six of the 500 parliamentarians voted against Krenz and 26 cast abstentions, the first time that the legislature had failed to offer complete obedience to the Communist Party's wishes in a vote for East Germany's highest constitutional post.

The revolt showed that the monolithic East German political establishment had begun to crack under enormous public pressure for reform.

Several hundred thousand people poured onto the streets of Leipzig Monday in the largest demonstration since East Germany was created in 1949. Many thousands more protested in East Berlin and the cities of Dresden, Magdeburg and Halle.

Protesters waved banners and shouted slogans complaining that the Communist Party had allowed no alternative candidate to Krenz as head of state.

Krenz, 52, took over as Communist Party leader on Oct. 18

Attempting to defuse public discontent, the authorities have already promised an early law which will lift many restrictions on foreign travel, particularly to the West.

More than 120,000 East Germans have emigrated to the West this year, both legally and illegally, in the largest exodus since the Berlin Wall was built in 1961.

Krenz appealed to citizens who were thinking of leaving the country to reconsider.

"Everyone who leaves us is one too many," he said.

Krenz was also approved as chairman of the National Defence Council, a body which commands sweeping executive and legislative authority in a national emergency.

But eight parliamentarians voted against his appointment to that post, and 17 abstained.

Krenz, a former security chief in the party's ruling politburo, has sought to make East German public life less stifling by opening up the official media and starting a dialogue with the powerful, pro-reform Protestant Church.

But he has underlined that reforms in East Germany will be designed to strengthen the existing system, rather than dismantling it as in Poland and Hungary.

East German ideologists say the country cannot consider Polish- or Hungarian-style reforms because the country was founded on the assumption that it was a Marxist state wholly distinct from West Germany.

Opposition groups such as New Forum, which has become East Germany's largest independent movement with 26,000 signatories, are not seeking reunification with West Germany. But they are calling for free elections and free foreign travel.

They are particularly suspicious of Krenz because they hold him responsible for what they allege was the falsification of local election results in May, when the authorities said 98 per cent of voters had cast ballots.

They also recall Krenz's defence of the Chinese Communist Party when it crushed pro-democracy protests in June with the deaths of hundreds of people.

"Krenz is fighting against time," a Western diplomat said. "If the Communist Party thinks it can buy people off with a better economy and travel, then they have underestimated the political maturity of the people."

Commonwealth hails global detente

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — Commonwealth leaders approved a final communique Tuesday hailing the reduction of East-West tensions but said a host of economic problems still threatened the developing world.

The wide-ranging communique called for global efforts to tackle international problems such as drugs, refugees, security of small states, terrorism and pockets of regional unrest.

The 29-page document was issued at the end of the 49-nation group's week-long summit here.

A "Langkawi Declaration" on the environment and a Kuala Lumpur statement on southern Africa, urging sanctions against Pretoria and help to ensure independence in Namibia were released earlier.

The communique said closer East-West ties had improved the world political climate and reduced regional conflicts, adding that "fundamental changes were taking place," which officials said referred to events in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

It expressed "deep concern at the dangerous tensions" in the Middle East and urged Israel to withdraw from the occupied territories and said Palestinians had rights to a homeland.

The communique said Vietnam's troop withdrawal from Kampuchea had not been verified by the United Nations and asked for more dialogue among the warring groups following the lack of progress at last August's Paris conference on Kampuchea.

It welcomed the Soviet Union's troop withdrawal from Afghanistan and called for humanitarian assistance for Afghan refugees and an early start to dialogue among Afghans to form a broad-based government.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher Tuesday dismissed a rift with fellow leaders at the Commonwealth summit over sanctions against South Africa as a storm in a teacup.

Thatcher caused uproar at the week-long meeting by issuing a separate statement on southern Africa which effectively repudiated a joint Commonwealth position that sanctions must be maintained until Pretoria is committed to irreversible change.

Australia, Canada and Zimbabwe assailed the British leader's action as despicable and an act of betrayal.

Shrugging off the criticism, Thatcher told reporters, "it's a great big storm in a teacup."

U.N. chief calls for progress, dignity for all

AMMAN (I.T.) — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar Tuesday called for the achievement of peace, dignity and economic and social progress for every man, woman and child on Earth.

On the eve of the United Nations Day which falls on Wednesday, the U.N. secretary general said that more nations are turning to the United Nations to address international problems.

The following is the full statement of the U.N. secretary general:

As we observe United Nations Day this year, there are growing signs that international relations may be entering a new and more positive era. As rarely before, nations are now recognising that they must address international problems multilaterally, through consultation and compromise, and, increasingly, they are turning to the United Nations.

At such a time, it is encouraging that the search for the bases of peace between the most powerful nations is also finding practical expression within the world organisation. There is a growing determination on their part to work together with the other members of the Security Council and, indeed, with the membership of the organisation as a whole, for the resolution of certain long-standing disputes. Moreover, the dangers of the new

generation of global problems, such as the degradation of the environment and drug abuse, have compelled all nations to realise that solutions can only be found through collective action.

There is, however, no reason for complacency. Conflicts still persist in many parts of the globe. The build-up of arms has not ceased. Far too many people still live in absolute poverty without adequate food or shelter and face discrimination on grounds of race, religion, sex or political belief. We are a long way from achieving universal respect for human rights. All this demands our commitment and our action.

As we approach the final decade of the century, we have the immense responsibility and also the possibility of ensuring that future generations live in a peaceful and secure planet. I see signs of a new commitment on the part of the people of the world to act together towards this goal. The United Nations can and will make a vital contribution to this common endeavour.

For all the dangers and difficulties, the time is therefore full of hope. Let the ideals and vision of the charter guide us as we transform hope into commitment and commitment into the achievement of peace, dignity and economic and social progress for every man, woman and child on Earth.

COLUMN

Zsa Zsa 'ready for anything'

BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — Actress Zsa Zsa Gabor, facing a possible jail term for slapping a police officer, insisted she's "100 per cent innocent" but was ready to "accept whatever sentence was issued." "I have no idea what will happen, but I am a strong lady," the Hungarian-born actress said Monday night. A jury on Sept. 29 convicted Miss Gabor of battery on a police officer, driving without a valid driver's license and having an open container of alcohol in her car. She was acquitted of failing to obey an officer. The maximum possible sentence for the misdemeanor conviction was 18 months in prison and a \$3,500 fine. District Attorney Ira Reiner urged a 30-day jail sentence, a fine of more than \$3,000 plus \$14,000 to compensate the Beverly Hills Police Department for its costs. But deputy District Attorney Eldon Fox had dismissed the idea of a jail term after her conviction.

The price of freedom? \$1.9m

ALBANY, New York (AP) — A judge has awarded \$1.9 million to a man wrongly imprisoned six years for a murder he did not commit. "How does one put a monetary value on seemingly mundane things, like sleeping one's own bed, a stroll through the park or a hug from a loved one?" wrote Judge C. Orlando in a decision released Monday. Orlando set the price at \$1,935 million, which he ordered the state to pay to Robert K. McLaughlin, 29. The judge blamed an error in identification and an "overzealous" police officer for McLaughlin's unjust conviction and incarceration.

Couple plead guilty in sex 'research'

EUGENE, Oregon (AP) — A New York doctor and his wife have pleaded guilty to prostitution and were fined \$2,500 each for paying college students to have sex with the woman in what they said was scientific research. Under terms of an agreement between the prosecution and the defence, neither Rodney Thorp Wood nor Nancy Stefan Wood will serve time in prison, perform community service or be placed on probation. The couple sat together Monday holding hands and exchanging smiles as they waited in court. The Woods, saying they were conducting research into the "sexual potential of the mature female," paid male students at the University of Oregon \$10 for each orgasm they or the 44-year-old woman experienced. Police said Wood, 60, recorded the encounters and took photographs.

He likes his language simple

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the world uncovered by Professor William Lutz, workers are not laid off. Fired employees are "de-hired," "non-retained," or "re-released." Lutz has written "DoubleSpeak," a book that looks at the work product of the mind capable of writing a government safety pamphlet that says: "Exit access is that part of a means of egress that leads to an entrance or an exit." "DoubleSpeak is not a slip of the tongue, or language used out of ignorance, but is instead a very conscious use of language as a weapon or tool by those in power to achieve their ends at our expense," he writes. People riding a roller coaster at an exhibition in Vancouver, Canada, might throw up. But Expo 86 said they might experience an "occasional protein spill."

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	WIND	W. WEATHER
AMSTERDAM	12	54	18	61
ATHENS	12	54	21	70
BAHRAIN	24	75	32	80
BANGKOK	23	73	33	91
Buenos Aires	18	64	27	68
CAIRO	17	63	28	82
CHICAGO	08	42	16	72
COPENHAGEN	16	54	15	65
FRANKFURT	10	59	22	72
GENEVA	05	41	22	72
HONG KONG	23	76	28	78
ISTANBUL	12	54	20	68
LONDON	10	57	17	63
LOS ANGELES	18	55	23	78
MADRID	11	52	21	70
MECCA	24	75	32	80
MONTREAL	01	34	15	59
MOSCOW	08	48	16	62
NEW DELHI	16	61	32	88
NEW YORK	05	42	19	68
PARIS	14	57	22	72
ROME	08	48	25	77
SYDNEY	14	57	23	74
TOKYO	12	54	18	61
WENNA	09	46	20	68

23 missing in Houston plastic plant explosion

PASADENA, Texas (AP) — Twenty-three workers were missing Tuesday after explosions at a plastics plant hurled chunks of metal and other debris kilometres away and created a fireball visible for 15 miles.

At least one worker died and more than 100 were injured in the explosions Monday at the Phillips Petroleum Co. plant near Houston.

Emergency crews were not likely to enter the plant before daybreak because of the fire and intense heat, said Phillips Petroleum President Glenn Cox. The fire was still burning late Monday night.

"We're betting there's a lot of fatalities, just because of the nature of the explosion and where it happened," said Dr. Paul Pepe, the director of Houston Emergency Medical Services. "We don't think there's anybody alive in there."

Cox said 109 workers were taken to hospitals. More than 33 were admitted and up to six were in serious to critical condition.

At least 10 others were treated for injuries, hospital figures showed. Officials had said the injured were being treated for burns, breathing problems and cuts from flying debris.

The blasts buckled a ceiling and blew out cafeteria windows at an elementary school about 1.5 kilometres away. None of the more than 700 pupils was injured and they were all sent home, a school employee said.

At the plant, leaking gas and broken water lines hampered



Benazir Bhutto

Bhutto reportedly expecting 2nd child

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto is expecting a second child, probably early next year, sources close to her family said Tuesday.

If still in office — the opposition announced plans Monday night for a vote of no-confidence — she apparently will be the first serving modern head of government to give birth.

Bhutto, 36, gave birth to son Bilawal on Sept. 21, 1988, eight weeks before the partial election victory that brought her to power.

She was the first woman to become prime minister of a Muslim country and one of the youngest heads of government of a major nation. Right-wing Muslim clerics objected to her nomination, saying it was "un-Islamic" for a woman to govern.

But her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) took 39 per cent of the votes and she won a majority in the National Assembly with the support of independents and small parties.

Some of these announced Monday they were supporting the no-confidence move, which must be put to a vote within seven days. Both PPP and opposition say they are confident of winning the vote.

Gandhi confident of big poll win

SULTANPUR, India (R) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi predicted his Congress Party would win next month's Indian elections handsomely and challenged his chief opponent to face him in a straight race.

"We will win with plenty of seats and get a very good majority," Gandhi told reporters as he filed his nomination papers for Nov. 22 and 24 elections most political analysts predict will be a close fight.

Gandhi faces a five-party alliance currently led by his former Defence Minister, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, which is trying to make arrangements with two more parties to ensure one-on-one fights with Congress.

"I would welcome his contest from here, but if V.P. Singh comes to Amethi, he is bound to lose his deposit," Gandhi said in Sultanpur, headquarters of the district which includes his constituency.

The Indian leader was speaking after filing his nomination papers to retain his seat in Amethi, which he won easily in 1984 elections that swept Congress back to power after the assassination of Gandhi's mother and predecessor, Indira.

Opposition sources said there was no chance Singh would take up the challenge. They said Singh would not file his nomination papers until the last minute to ensure Congress did not put up a heavyweight against him.

Nominations are currently the big focus of attention as the parties work out their strategies for the elections to the 545-member Lower House of Parliament.

Gandhi ended speculation that his Italian-born wife, Sonia, would be a candidate.

"Sonia does not want to contest," he said after filing four sets of nomination papers in case some were rejected as improperly filled out.

U.S., Nicaragua clash on C. American peace plan

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The United States and Nicaragua have put roadblocks in the way of a U.S.-backed Central American peace plan which could hold up positive results for months.

In a clash at the U.N. General Assembly Monday each side maintained that its interpretation honoured the spirit of the agreements.

Nicaragua said contra rebels must be dismantled and their bases dismantled or it might negotiate other parts of the agreement. The United States said the agreement called for more democracy in Nicaragua before the contras disbanded.

At the heart of the argument is the so-called Tela Agreement signed last August by five Central American presidents, including Nicaragua, that in varying forms has been approved by the U.N. Security Council.

Implementation of the accords involves interlocking U.N. forces. The only one set up so far is monitoring Nicaragua's scheduled February elections and has encountered few difficulties.

another. The Central American presidents also called for 10,000 contras based in Honduras to be disbanded by Dec. 5, a date few believe will be honoured.

While the United States said it would support establishing the peace forces, it clearly expects the contras to be in place until at least after the Nicaraguan elections Feb. 25.

The issue came to a head when U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering told the General Assembly the contras should not be disbanded until there was more democracy in Nicaragua.

"This demobilisation cannot happen until there is full acceptance and implementation of the Nicaraguan government's commitments to democratisation," Pickering said.

He also accused Nicaragua of sending weapons to Salvadoran guerrillas and hindering the election process.

"The principles and commitments of this peace process still await implementation," he said. "Compliance with all of them is essential for peace in the region."

Nicaragua in turn accused the United States of inventing links

that were not in the agreements. Ambassador Alejandro Serrano Caldera said disarming of the contras was mandatory not voluntary.

"If it were voluntary, they could disband on their own whenever they felt like it without an agreement from Central American presidents," he said.

Unnoticed by many diplomats, who scrutinise each document 10 times, the General Assembly passed a resolution Monday that did not include the word "voluntary" when describing demobilisation of the contras in the English-language version.

A high U.N. official associated with the peace plan, said "As a practical matter we (the U.N.) couldn't accept any of the tasks other than on a voluntary basis."

20 presidents gather in Costa Rica

Meanwhile, about 20 presidents from the Americas gather in San Jose, Costa Rica, Friday for a summit whose fringe meetings could prove more controversial than the main event.

Encouraged by U.S. President George Bush's decision to attend, Costa Rican leader and Nobel

Peace Prize winner Oscar Arias is planning the meeting as a celebration of 100 years of democracy in the Central American nation.

But some Western diplomats say Bush's informal meeting with Panamanian opposition leaders and Violeta de Chamorro, the main opposition candidate in Nicaraguan elections next February, could sour the summit.

It will introduce a note of discord with the Nicaraguans who will feel the conference is being exploited for political ends by the United States and put the Costa Ricans in a difficult position," a Western diplomat told Reuters.

The Costa Ricans have invited the democratically-elected governments in the Americas, as well as Spain and Portugal, excluding only Panama, Cuba, Chile and Haiti.

Panama's defence forces, whose commander General Manuel Antonio Noriega is the country's de facto leader, have criticised Costa Rica's decision to exclude them from the meeting, calling Arias a U.S. puppet who did not deserve the Nobel Prize.

Central to the summit's official

business is an expected announcement by Canadian Prime Minister Brian Mulroney that his country plans to join the Organisation of American States (OAS), many of whose leaders will be at the meeting.

Arias told Costa Ricans in a national broadcast Monday he hoped the summit would lay the ground for many more meetings, and that it would lead to reforms of the inter-American system, giving responsibility to specific countries for eradicating drugs and protecting the ecology of the region.

Arias and Mulroney are now the only two leaders scheduled to give public speeches. The summit's structure has been fundamentally overhauled since Arias first mooted the idea of a pan-American gathering some months ago.

The original plan had called for each president to outline his country's views on debt, deforestation, drugs, development, disarmament and democracy.

"It was very rigid, it would have been 20 monologues with no room for discussion," Costa Rican Information Minister Jorge Urbina told Reuters.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. Congress restricts arms sales

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives have passed a bill to prohibit private and public arms sales to countries listed by the State Department as supporters of international terrorism. Cuba, Iran, Libya, North Korea, South Yemen and Syria are currently on the State Department's list of terrorist supporters. The bill was passed by voice vote and sent to the Senate. It was a response to the Iran-contra scandal when the administration of former President Ronald Reagan secretly sold arms to Iran in an attempt to win freedom for American hostages in Lebanon and then used the profits to aid the contra rebels fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Sri Lankan vigilantes kill 13

COLOMBO (R) — Black-clad vigilantes shot dead 13 people and then set fire to a house with their bodies inside, Sri Lankan police said Tuesday. They said the victims included eight members of a family, two seven-year-old boys and three women. The attack by about 30 gunmen was Sunday night in Wilkuma village, central Sri Lanka. Villagers blamed pro-government death squads battling rebels of the leftwing People's Liberation Front. The government denies that members of the security forces are involved in vigilante killings. A government statement said 11 other people were killed in political violence in the 24 hours ending Tuesday morning. In Colombo, an Indian High Commission (embassy) spokesman said an unspecified number of Indian troops had been withdrawn from the eastern district of Ampara and would sail home Wednesday from the port of Trincomalee. Sri Lankan military sources put the number of troops at between 3,000 and 4,000.

'China concerned about East Europe'

PEKING (R) — China is deeply concerned about events in Eastern Europe, Premier Li Peng was quoted as saying Tuesday, expressing for the first time in public Peking's misgivings over reforms and unrest threatening Communism there. Li, a hardliner instrumental in crushing China's democracy movement in June, told a visiting Yugoslav official that reforms meant "perfecting the socialist system," implying they should not be used to dump Communism — as Poland and Hungary have done in recent weeks. "As a Socialist country, China is of course deeply concerned about events in some East European countries," Li said, quoted by the Communist Party newspaper People's Daily. But Li added, in a meeting with Yugoslav Deputy Prime Minister Zvezko Pregl Monday, each country should decide for itself "how to proceed along the Socialist path." He did not name any country and Pregl's reply was not published.

